

ONLY IN THE TIMES

DEATH OF A PRINCESS

TODAY WHAT WERE HER LAST WORDS?



DIANA AND DODI'S MARRIAGE PLANS

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IS TV TOO KIND TO MOSLEY?

Robert Skidelsky

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Sinn Fein faces expulsion from talks

Ceasefire in balance after 'IRA killings'

By MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

SINN FEIN'S place in the Stormont peace talks was in danger last night after republican gunmen killed two men in Belfast within 12 hours. Unionist and loyalist politicians said they would demand Sinn Fein's expulsion if, as they believed, the IRA was connected to either death.

Robert Dougan, a prominent loyalist with strong paramilitary connections, was killed as he sat in a car at lunchtime in one of Belfast's southern suburbs. Three men with IRA connections were later arrested.

The previous night Brendan Campbell, a well-known drugs dealer, was shot dead outside a restaurant in south Belfast. Last month Mr Campbell survived an assassination attempt by an IRA front organisation named Direct Action Against Drugs, and security sources said they strongly suspected DAAD was responsible for his death.

The Ulster Unionist Party said it would demand Sinn Fein's expulsion if the Royal Ulster Constabulary confirmed the IRA's involvement, just as the loyalist Ulster Democratic Party had been ejected last month after its paramilitary wing, the Ulster Defence Association, admitted killing three Catholics.

"If it is, as it presently looks, the work of the IRA then there's only one consequence," said David Trimble, the UUP leader.

The UDP and Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party



Dougan: three men held after his murder

also demanded Sinn Fein's expulsion. Gary McMichael, the UDP leader, said the gunmen were trying to provoke the IRA into retaliation and wanted "to bring this society to its knees and bring this process down". The RUC said it was too early to issue a definitive statement on who was responsible.

Paul Murphy, the Political Development Minister, said that if the murders were committed by a paramilitary group connected to any participant "the implications of that will need to be very seriously examined. The Government is determined to maintain the integrity of this process". Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein's President, denied that his party represented the IRA and accused the Unionists of exploiting the murders. "They don't care who was killed," he said. "What they see is some tactical advantage to themselves in an attempt to wreck this process and oust Sinn Fein."

Were Sinn Fein to be expelled there would be little to prevent the IRA returning to violence. Hardliners are known to be disenchanted with the talks and the number of kidnappings and punishment beatings has risen in recent weeks. But the more immediate danger is that the IRA will abandon its recently-resumed ceasefire.

Mr Dougan, 38, and married with a 12-year-old son, was a senior UDA member who had survived two previous assassination attempts.

A gunman wearing a baseball cap shot him as he waited to pick up a babysitter outside a shop in Dunmurry. He died almost immediately. Shortly afterwards three men were seen running away from a car they had abandoned in west Belfast.

The police took away three men from a house nearby. The car was believed to have been a taxi hijacked from Andersonstown, another staunchly republican area.

Mr Dougan was shot a few hundred yards from where INLA killed another prominent loyalist, Jim Guiney, last month. The INLA denied responsibility.

Mr Campbell, 30, was killed as he emerged from a restaurant in Lisburn Road on Monday night. A woman friend was seriously injured and taken to hospital.

Security sources said that last year he had launched a grenade attack on Connolly House, Sinn Fein's headquarters in an act of defiance then telephoned to claim responsibility. Last month gunmen shot him in the chest as he drank in a Belfast bar.



On the Oscar shortlist: Julie Christie (top left); Judi Dench (top right); Helena Bonham Carter (bottom left) and Kate Winslet

British stars are Oscar leading ladies

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH stars yesterday dominated the shortlist for best actress in this year's Oscars by winning four of the five nominations.

Dame Judi Dench was nominated for her portrayal of Queen Victoria in *Mrs Brown*. Kate Winslet for her role in *Titanic*, Helena Bonham Carter for *Wings of a Dove* and Julie Christie for *Afterglow*, which has yet to be released in Britain.

The hugely successful British film *The Full Monty* received four nominations, including best film.

Dame Judi, 63, who has been showered with awards for her stage work, said yesterday that she was "stunned" by the news.

In more than 40 years since she first appeared at the Old Vic as Ophelia, audiences have been captivated by her performances, which straddle high and low culture - from great Shakespearean roles to sitcoms. Yet apart from supporting parts in films such as *A Room With A View* and recent James Bond features, she has stayed clear of the cinema: "I've never had a leading role in a film."

She feels uncomfortable with the medium because she feels that, unlike the theatre, once something is filmed, it cannot be improved. Until *Mrs Brown* she had been too squeamish even to watch her own films.

Yesterday, she explained her unease with the cinema: it dates from when she was 23 and a film director cruelly told her she had "every single thing" wrong with her face. "I never got over it," she said.

That director has a lot to answer for, but Dame Judi was decent enough not to name him.

Oscar race, page 9

Major supports Cook on Iraq

John Major said that if the West decided to target President Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard, the Commons should back the action. In his first Commons intervention since losing the election, Mr Major said that there must be no concessions to Saddam, whom he described as a psychopath. Page 10

Motorist shot

A man was shot last night in what is thought to be a "road rage" row in Croydon, South London. The victim, 46, was said to be in a stable condition. The other man escaped.

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When in Rome Yeltsin is, as usual, confused

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

IT WAS, said *Il Messaggero*, the Rome daily, an historic encounter between the Russian Bear and the Holy Father.

But Boris Yeltsin's first visit to Rome since the fall of Communism in 1991 got off to an all too familiar embarrassing start yesterday when the Russian leader appeared confused, unsure who he was talking to, and even more unsure of what he had said the day before.

The day began well in brilliant sunshine, when Mr Yeltsin visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Italians had done their best to organise things perfectly; three ambulances followed the huge Russian convoy, an army of advisers was on hand and staff at the Grand Hotel reportedly cleared the minibar in the Yeltsin suite of all alcohol, leaving only fruit juice and mineral water. Nonetheless, Mr Yeltsin offended his hosts by failing to salute the Italian flag, walking

straight past it, despite attempts by his embarrassed aides to stop him.

Later, at a press conference with Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, with whom he signed a number of bilateral deals in fields from the economy to culture, Mr Yeltsin appeared not to understand many of the questions. He said there would be "dire consequences leading to a big conflagration" if America and Britain attacked Baghdad.

He was asked why he had said on arrival that Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, was heading for Baghdad to try and avert war when Mr Annan's office had said the Secretary-General had no such plans. "But I never said I was going to Iraq," Mr Yeltsin said, clearly befuddled. His press secretary whispered in vain in his ear.

Several times Mr Yeltsin had to be propped up by aides. Diplomats said it was all too reminiscent of his last foreign

foray, to Sweden in December, when he mistakenly asserted that Germany and Japan were nuclear powers and kept the King waiting. By the time he reached the Vatican, however, he appeared to have concentrated his mind and all was smiles between him and the Pope, who greeted him in Russian. Mr Yeltsin was accompanied by his daughter, Tatyana, who is also his closest adviser, and his wife Naina, who laid a grandmotherly hand on the Pope's arm, saying: "We are all with you."

The Pope replied: "Let us hope that we all greet the new millennium." He glanced at Mr Yeltsin and added: "I am glad to see your husband in such good form."

Like Mr Yeltsin the Pope has to pace himself. Yesterday his left hand shook uncontrollably, said by medical experts to be one of the signs of Parkinson's Disease.

Mr Yeltsin, who brought his own chef with him from Moscow, was depicted in a front page cartoon in *La Repubblica* greeting the Pope with the words: "Let's eat first and pray afterwards".

Alcohol, however, was firmly off the agenda, apart from the Lambrusco and Chianti at the official dinners. Staff at the Grand Hotel where the Yeltsins were staying, were ordered to remove all spirits as well as the chocolate bars and packets of peanuts.

For the Italians, the focus of interest was not so much Mr Yeltsin but his daughter Tatyana, who they were intrigued to find was not only good-looking but was also constantly at the Russian leader's side to advise him.

Unkindest cut of all for stylist sacked by Queen

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

FOR three years Paul Burgess, a stylist, made sure there was not a hair out of place on the Queen's head. Once a week, until his sack last year, he would travel to Buckingham Palace from his salon in Cheltenham to attend to the royal hair.

Yesterday Mr Burgess lost a claim that he was unfairly dismissed. He believed that he had been sacked because his salon had been taken over. But the tribunal heard that the Queen had requested his replacement and had asked for her involvement to be concealed to avoid offending him.

The hearing was told that Mr Burgess, who is in his mid-30s, was fired after returning from a royal visit to Canada last July.

Vicky Schaverien, managing director of the Steiner hairdressing group training division, revealed that it was the Queen who wanted him to go. Ms Schaverien said: "We were not given any options. I was told by the Queen not to mention her involvement."

Ms Schaverien said she tried to break the news gently to Burgess that he had been dismissed from the £100-a-week job by quoting complications over the change of ownership.



Paul Burgess was not told of royal decision

In March 1996, the Steiner Group sold the salon to Regis Ltd but allowed Mr Burgess to continue as the Queen's hairdresser on his days off. In July last year Mr Burgess was told by letter that his services to the Queen were no longer needed.

Mr Burgess said: "I was shocked to be dismissed like that so quickly. All I could think was my replacement would not see how I cut the Queen's hair and this would cause problems."

The chairman, Colin Sara, said: "We have come to the conclusion the applicant throughout was employed by Regis and that when he was no longer required by the Queen to act as her hairdresser, Regis and the applicant lost a client."

Buckingham Palace said last night: "Mr Burgess worked as a reserve stylist for the Queen under Charles Martin. He then became her principal stylist, a post which he held for three years."



Russian Bear and Holy Father at the Vatican yesterday

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No-one goes further to keep you closer

Foreign Office gets to bottom of a little local difficulty

We are not to have BOTS, after all. What's left of our empire used to be called the Dependent Territories, but the Government plans a change of name. A little-noticed U-turn emerged yesterday, however, when ministers made clear that Britain's overseas territories are not (as was first announced) to be renamed British Overseas Territories.

Someone in the Foreign Office seems to have woken up to a certain lack of dignity in the acronym. We are to



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Eden said to me that attacks *ad hominem* were almost always a mistake. He hoped both parties could rise above the present level of name-calling and personal abuse. The Foreign Secretary seemed grateful.

Mr Cook did well, again, in his Statement on Iraq some minutes later. Supported by John Major, who called Saddam Hussein "a psychopath without a conscience", Cook struck a deft balance of firmness with coolness, though he seems to be having an uphill battle enthusing his

own backbenchers, only the dissidents among whom turned up in any number to speak. At one point the Foreign Secretary told MPs that Saddam had "cleansed Iraq's prisons by executing all those sentenced to more than 15 years". Even from my position behind Michael Howard, I could see the flash of excitement in his eyes, reflecting off new Labour cufflinks opposite.

Among his answers to MPs, the Foreign Secretary made two remarks which this sketch is having difficulty

ID smartcards to be voluntary, says minister

Whitehall's planned electronic revolution will mean 'joined-up government', Valerie Elliott reports

PERSONAL identity cards for every citizen are being reconsidered by ministers as part of a package of measures to improve public services. The aim is to allow people to use their card to claim benefits, get access to medical records or deal with their tax affairs.

The cards would be voluntary but ministers hope everyone will choose to carry one. There are no plans at present for it to become a compulsory national identity card.

A government source said: "The potential scope for the new card was huge. We do not wish to impose the card or to intimidate people with fear of 'big brother'. But the idea is that everyone would have one. It would become an important card because it would be so useful."

A sophisticated smartcard would guarantee a person's identity and could be the key for using computer technology to order and pay for television licences, vehicle tax discs and passports.

The Government's interest in identity cards was disclosed yesterday by David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, who confirmed they were back on the agenda. The Government was studying work being carried out by the Department of Social Security, and he said: "Smartcards are being actively considered."

He painted a vision of people receiving such licences and documents by way of a fax machine attached to a digital television. He suggested that a card could be used to get access to government services. He said that officials were

researching public views about such a card and that initial feedback was that people were not afraid of government departments sharing information held on them. Most assumed that once they gave information to one department, it was passed on to another branch of government.

The proposals are expected to be a centrepiece of the Government's planned White Paper on Better Government due in the spring. Dr Clark yesterday outlined the ideas for the planned revolution in public services to a conference organised by the Fabian Society at Westminster.

He also confirmed that in future many government functions could be contracted out to local government so that people could deal directly with "one-stop shops" and even suggested that just as the Post Office was contracted to handle Giro payments so, too, information technology companies might one day send cash directly to a person's bank account. He accepted

that there would be difficult problems to confront and that staff would have to be flexible, but he said people deserved higher standards and simpler delivery of public services.

Dr Clark outlined his plans for what he termed "joined-up government" which would remove traditional departmental boundaries and simplify services for the citizen. For the strategy to work, however, Dr Clark emphasised the need for a new powerbase between Downing Street and the Cabinet Office to ensure change was effectively delivered.

One possibility would be to create a board of management to include Ministers without any departmental allegiance to push through reforms.

Dr Clark said the Government had already strengthened the No 10 policy unit, and had set up a strategic communications unit but they now had to look at strategic management for the whole government. Such tighter coordination would drive up standards and measure performance across the "crazy paving" of different government departments and agencies, and chase policy implementation across Whitehall.

Senior officials have ruled out the creation of a separate Prime Minister's department but they want departments to operate more routinely.

It is understood that Mr Blair and his staff are considering whether to appoint a senior businessman or political heavyweight to help drive forward the electronic revolution in Government and insure that departments pool information.



Clark smartcards are being actively considered



Ken Maginnis rejected Mo Mowlam's call for an apology, and she did not insist in order to protect the peace talks



Name-calling angers Unionists

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A FURIOUS row triggered by Mo Mowlam's failure to address an Ulster Unionist by his Christian name yesterday showed how fraught relations between the Northern Ireland Secretary and the province's biggest party have become.

It erupted during a committee meeting at last week's Stormont peace talks when the famously informal minister addressed Ken Maginnis's colleague, Dermot Nesbitt, as "Mr Nesbitt" after addressing all the other delegates by their Christian names.

Mr Maginnis, the Unionist MP for Fermanagh, considered this a discourtesy. He refused to accept Dr Mowlam had simply forgotten Mr Nesbitt's first name and walked out, calling the Secretary of State a "damned liar".

In a leaked letter to David Trimble, the UUP leader, Dr Mowlam deplored the "vicious and unwarranted attack" and insisted his verbal onslaughts against her and

her officials had to stop. "I have to tell you that until I receive an apology from you... on his behalf, or from Mr Maginnis, I will not do business with him in the talks."

Mr Trimble, backed by Mr Nesbitt, rejected her demand. He claimed she had spent 20 minutes with her back to the two Unionists while talking exclusively to the Sinn Féin delegates. He said he regretted the adjective "damned" but not the noun "liar", claiming Dr Mowlam had often been "economical with the truth".

"You have to ask yourself how long the Ulster Unionists can be ignored," he said. "We have tried for a very long time to work with the Secretary of State, but there comes a moment when you have to say enough is enough. He accused Dr Mowlam of doing her utmost to keep 'Sinn Féin IRA' at the table while seeking to bar him from the talks because he told uncomfortable truths about the republicans."

Government sources insisted Dr Mowlam had been soliciting views around the table and simply suffered a "momentary memory lapse" when she came to Mr Nesbitt, a lesser-known member of the UUP delegation. They said she was "frazzled" with the abuse directed at her by Unionists and begged an apology was warranted, but was not prepared to jeopardise the talks to get one.

Annie Campbell, a Womens Coalition delegate who attended the meeting, said Dr Mowlam had apologised for not knowing Mr Nesbitt's first name and said Mr Maginnis's behaviour was "very childish - it was a tantrum".

There have been repeated clashes between leading Unionists and Dr Mowlam: last month they demanded her resignation after the murder of a leading loyalist in the Maze prison.

Services to review compensation

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

A FULL review of compensation for soldiers, sailors and airmen killed or injured in military action or peacetime duties was ordered by the Government last night.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, ordered the review after a British soldier who lost his leg on United Nations peacekeeping duties in Bosnia failed to win his battle for compensation.

The High Court ruled on Monday that the Ministry of Defence had not acted unfairly in refusing to compensate Sergeant Trevor Walker, 32. But ministers accept that the anomalies in the schemes that prevented him receiving recompense should not be allowed to continue.

While the changes cannot be retrospective, ministers are determined to try to avoid repeats of a case that has embarrassed the Government. Under the criminal injuries compensation overseas scheme, members of the

Campaign on real life, says Major

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN MAJOR has told Tory MPs to restrain their tendency towards a single currency, and concentrate on issues that directly affect people's lives rather than "abstract ideological debates".

In a magazine interview to be published tomorrow, the former Prime Minister says that "an antagonistic debate" about European Monetary Union does not help the party when it is not yet known whether it would be right for Britain to join.

Failing to mention William Hague's position that Britain's entry should be ruled out for ten years, Mr Major expresses the earlier and more broad Tory position that a single currency should be ruled out "for the foreseeable future".

In an interview with *Crossbow*, the house magazine for the Bow Group, a broad-church Tory think-tank Mr Major says: "Everyone will concur that we should only go

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dinner ladies win £1.5m in back pay

Nearly 400 school dinner ladies were awarded £1.5 million compensation at an industrial tribunal yesterday for having their pay cut. Four years ago Bedfordshire County Council reduced their wages by a third in an attempt to make the service more competitive and ward off competition from a private contractor.

Most of the women will receive between £2,000 and £4,000 in back pay, although a few could get up to £15,000. Their unions, Unison and GMB, had argued that the council had breached the Sex Discrimination Act and the Equal Pay Act by cutting their pay, holiday entitlements and sick pay.

New murder clue

French police investigating the rape and murder of Caroline Dickinson yesterday confirmed the discovery of firm evidence that the killer had attacked another British schoolgirl in a different youth hostel a few miles away just hours earlier. The 13-year-old schoolgirl from Cornwall was killed in on July 1996.

Campbell in soup

Forty Labour MPs signed a Commons Early Day Motion condemning Tony Blair's Official Spokesman, Alastair Campbell, after he accused the BBC of being "down-market and dumbed down" last week. The left-wing MPs expressed confidence in the BBC's news values and objective analysis.

Bishops' move

The Archbishop of Canterbury is considering reviewing the way bishops are appointed because of the time it has taken to find a successor for Bishop of Liverpool. The Right Rev David Sheppard, now Lord Sheppard, retired last September but said he was leaving nearly a year ago.

Diana fund delay

Trustees of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund face a delay in choosing a chief executive after 500 people applied for the £25,000-a-year post. Applicants include leading figures from Britain's biggest charities and several prominent businessmen.

Drug-drive tests

Baroness Hayman, the Road Safety Minister, will today announce trials of police tests to discover how many motorists are driving while under the influence of drugs. Almost one in three drivers killed is under the influence of alcohol, while one in five has traces of drugs in the bloodstream.

Farmer cleared

The trial of a farmer charged with damaging a prehistoric settlement described as one of the most important in Scotland, collapsed when it emerged that the remains were in a 20th-century quarry. William Black had been accused of erecting an 80ft telephone mast on the site near Leuchers, Fife.

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Ministers reject peers' curb on cheap papers

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Government faces the prospect of a backbench rebellion in the Commons after making plain yesterday that the Lords amendment forbidding price-cutting campaigns by national newspapers would not pass into law.

Ministers are to table an amendment to the Competition Bill to ensure that the Lords cross-party campaign, aimed principally at News International, a subsidiary of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, does not succeed. It is likely to insist

that the newspaper industry should not, as the amendment backed by 23 rebel Labour peers suggests, be treated as a special case.

But the Government may move to meet the concerns of potential Labour rebels in the Commons by using the amendment to strengthen the powers against so-called predatory pricing already contained in the Bill.

Ministers and whips are anxious that the Bill should not be seen solely as a measure to constrain Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corp, and began moves yesterday to convince Labour MPs that

the powers in the Bill already gave the Office of Fair Trading strong powers to intervene. "We are providing the framework in the Bill and we are leaving the regulator to deal with individual cases and complaints as they arise," Downing Street said.

The Government will table the amendment for the standing committee stage of the Bill which takes place away from the floor of the Commons. Its difficulties could arise at the report stage, in which all MPs can participate, if dissident Labour MPs feel that it has not gone far enough to counter promotional pricing. But both

That was no bucket of water, says Prescott's Brits attacker, it was a metaphor ...

Mum says anarchist has some explaining to do

By ADRIAN LEE AND RUSSELL JENKINS

THE pop star anarchist who left John Prescott furious after drenching him at the Brit Awards will have some explaining to do when he rings his mother, she said yesterday. The culprit, Danbert Nobacon, of the band Chumbawamba, is a former school prefect and boy scout whose real name is Nigel Hunter.

Police said that no action would be taken against him but the Deputy Prime Minister deplored the soaking as cowardly and contemptible. Labour Party officials also expressed their anger.

Mr Nobacon, 35, and his colleagues left for a tour of Japan yesterday but his mother, Shirley Hunter, spoke of her surprise. She and her husband, Roy, a builder, had listened to the event on radio but had not realised their son had tipped the contents of an ice bucket over Mr Prescott.

"I won't get angry with him," said Mrs Hunter, of Burnley, Lancashire, who is in her 50s and works part-time for an estate agent. "I think it is a mistake for parents to do that before they know the reasons. But I would like him to explain why he did it. It was certainly different." She said he normally calls once a week.

Mrs Hunter has been an avid follower of her son's pop career since he formed his first



Danbert Nobacon at the Brit Awards and, right, as model schoolboy Nigel Hunter at Burnley grammar

band, at the age of 16, called *Chimp Eats Banana*. He left Burnley Grammar School with four A-levels and read English at Leeds University but dropped out. He later gained a higher education degree. Graduation pictures adorn the family's pebble-dashed semi-detached house.

Mrs Hunter described her reaction when she discovered her son was an anarchist. "I thought 'Oh yes, that's nice.' Then I looked up anarchist in the dictionary to see what it was. To me it doesn't matter what he is, it's the person inside that matters."

She said she had no interest in politics and rarely spoke to her son, who is a vegetarian, about his extreme views. She

once and had shaved all his hair off." She was mystified about the motive for the soaking.

Mr Prescott condemned the attack as a publicity stunt, adding that it was "utterly contemptible that [my] wife and other womenfolk should have been subjected to such cowardly terrifying behaviour simply because they were accompanying a public figure at an event designed to support the British music industry."

Band members, who met while living in a squat, have openly criticised new Labour. At the ceremony one member wore a T-shirt with the words *Sold Out*. In October, the group gave £20,000 from a concert to the striking Liverpool dockers.

The band hinted two weeks ago that it was planning "something more interesting" than just performing at the event. Mr Nobacon is married to Laura, an American, and according to his mother, they rent a house in Leeds.

He is a keen fell runner and supporter of Burnley Football Club, and the second of three boys. Brother Jason, 38, works for Unison, the health services union, while Brent, 31, is a chartered engineer. Family holidays were spent in Devon.

Of the band, she said: "They are marvellous - all nice people. Nigel would not hurt anyone or damage property; he is very quiet, very caring and I am proud of what he has achieved."

Labour officials expressed anger at the "apparent lack of contrition" from the awards organisers or the group's record company. "We have heard nothing from them about any concerns about the security of the event and what they are going to do in the future, especially as the band appears to have preplanned everything," a senior party spokesman said.

A spokesman for the Brit Awards condemned Chumbawamba's actions as a "cheap stunt". He said: "It didn't spoil anything. In fact Mr Prescott stayed and was backstage chatting with people."

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WHY DEPUTY BECAME A NEW LABOUR WET

Danbert Nobacon explained yesterday why he had tipped a bucket of water over the Deputy Prime Minister (right, moments after his soaking). "It's a metaphor," he said, "for the underdog pissing on the steps of Downing Street. It is an illusion about new Labour being wonderful. They just say the same things, wear bigger smiles and sharper suits." Told that John Prescott had been upset by the soaking, he simply shrugged. He denied the attack had been a publicity stunt. "It was no more of a stunt than John Prescott being at the Brits. They are just trying to make Labour trendy."



Golfer sinks his differences with club out of court

By LEN JENKINS

THE High Court dispute between a golf club and a British Airways pilot who was expelled for making an allegedly racist remark at a prizegiving was halted yesterday when the two sides agreed to a settlement.

Christopher Lankey was left with a legal bill that he says could bankrupt him, and he has been barred from both the bar and course at Balling Golf Club, Greenford, West London. However, he is free to reapply for membership and the club said that it would consider an application impartially.

The club faces costs estimated at £100,000 after accepting that the remark "cut the Irish bastard", at an awards ceremony in 1995 hosted by the former champion boxer John Conteh, was not intended by Mr Lankey to be racist or offensive, and that the pilot was not a racist.

During the five-day hearing, before Mr Justice Buckley, the disputes and squabbles between members were exposed. The judge said he was happy the matter had been resolved. "I think they are extremely wise and sensible to do so on both sides," he said.

Mr Lankey, 49, from Bayswater, West London, had said that he himself was sometimes called Bubbles,

from the Cockney rhyming slang "bubble and squeak", because his mother was Greek. He had made the remark about Shane Roche, his former golfing partner, as an affectionate gibe at his handicap, he said.

Mr Lankey had claimed his expulsion was invalid since an improperly constituted disciplinary hearing had decided simply to reprimand him for the offence. He sought damages for being denied the pleasure of playing.

Malcolm Gibson, the general manager of the club, had claimed that he, rather than the board, had the power to deal with disciplinary matters and he had decided to admonish Mr Lankey severely.



Lankey: expelled over gibe at prizegiving

Ice-cream killers back in jail after year of freedom

By GILLIAN HARRIS, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A YEAR of freedom ended yesterday for two men who appealed against their conviction for the murder of six members of a family in Glasgow's "ice-cream wars". Thomas Campbell and Joseph Steele, who have been on bail since December 1996, were taken back to jail looking visibly shaken after their case was rejected.

Outside the court, family and friends shouted abuse at police officers, who had to call for reinforcements. Officers formed a cordon as they waited for the men to be driven off. Steele's son, John Paul, 15, broke down in tears and said: "They have given me my Dad back for a year and now they have taken him away from me again." Campbell's girlfriend, Karen Packer, 27, had a baby a week ago.

The men were sentenced to life in 1984 for murdering six members of the Doyle family, including an 18-month-old baby, in an arson attack on their home in Glasgow. Yesterday at the Court of Criminal Appeal in Edinburgh, the Lord Justice Clerk, Lord Cullen, and Lord Sutherland, sitting with Lord McClusky, refused to grant the appeal. Lord Cullen said there had been "no reasonable explanation" as to why a key witness who now claims he lied during

the original trial had changed his mind.

The killings were thought to have part of a war between rival ice-cream sellers in the east end of Glasgow. Campbell, now 45, and Steele, 36, have always denied murder. Steele drew attention to their case by scaling a tower at Barlinnie Prison and using superglue to attach himself to the gates of Buckingham Palace after escaping from jail.

In 1992, a key witness, William Love, said that he had perjured himself at a conversation between Campbell and Steele, and allowing them to take the blame for his own action in shooting at a van windscreen.

In December 1996, Michael Forsyth, the then Scottish Secretary, referred the case to the Criminal Court of Appeal. The case was the first in Scotland where a witness's retraction of evidence was used as grounds for appeal, since a change in the law last year. Another 15 cases were thought to be hanging on yesterday's judgment. The men's solicitor, John Carroll, pledged that the fight to prove innocence would continue. Neither man is eligible for parole as long as they continue to campaign against the convictions.

Judge acquits IRA bomb suspect

By STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A GARAGE owner was cleared yesterday of involvement in the IRA Docklands bomb attack after an Old Bailey judge ruled there was insufficient prosecution evidence to continue the case.

Patrick McKinley, 34, from Newry, Co. Down, was accused of conspiring to cause the explosion at London's South Quay in February 1996 which ended the IRA ceasefire. Two men were killed and the blast left damage estimated at £150 million.

A second man, James McCordie, was also accused of being involved in the plot and the murder of the two victims. He

denies the charges and remains on trial. During the four-week prosecution case, Mr McKinley was accused of playing a background role in the plot and taking part in the conversion of the lorry which was used to conceal the bomb.

Mr Justice Blotfeld told the jury he was directing them to acquit Mr McKinley after hearing legal submissions from his counsel, Michael Mansfield, QC. As Mr McKinley watched from the dock, the judge told the jury: "I am satisfied I am bound to come to the conclusion it would be a mistake for the jury to be asked to conclude he had taken part in the conversion of the lorry bomb."

The judge said there were facts which raised suspicions "but suspicion alone is

insufficient". Prosecution suggestions that two cars linked Mr McKinley to the plot were not proven.

Mr McCordie, 29, from Crossmaglen in South Armagh, told the court he had driven the lorry on the dummy run and before the attack, but had not taken part in any bomb plot. On each occasion he had driven the lorry for a neighbour, whom he called "the boss", as a job for cash.

Mr McCordie said he knew "the boss" was in the IRA but refused to name him. He told the court: "Where I live, you don't tell people's names." He said he drove the lorry to England and handed it over at South Mimms in Hertfordshire. The case continues.



Nobacon and legs: Danbert leaving Heathrow yesterday for a Japanese tour

Musical map is no way to hit the road

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

BRITPOP has been put on the map, although music fans who arrive on these shores clutching their guides to pop geography would be wise not to expect a glamorous trip.

The new British Tourist Authority map, featuring an electric guitar-shaped Britain, would be useless as a serious aid to navigation. However, on the back is a list of almost 70 towns and cities with details of their positions in the history of pop.

World-famous locations such as the Liverpool and London of The Beatles are well documented. There are also dozens of places that have only the most obscure connection with the music world. One wonders what sort of obsessive would travel to Cambridge because Olivia Newton-John lived there until she moved to Australia, aged five. Who would head for Authorpe in Lincolnshire because the mother of Corinne Drewery, of Swing Out Sister, once ran a hedgehog hospital there?

Anthony Sell of BTA said he hopes that "visitors will use the map to explore every nook and cranny of Britain's incredible pop heritage". Unfortunately, the map is short on detail when it comes to the homes of stars such as Sir Elton John, somewhere in Windsor.

As befits true grandfathers of rock, old haunts of the Rolling Stones pop up all over the place. But one of the most popular locations in the guide does not celebrate British music at all, but the most fleeting of visits by Elvis Presley, who hopped out at Prestwick airport while his plane was being refuelled in 1960 as it took him home from military service in Germany. The Graceland Bar now puts on dances twice a year. Cool Britannia, indeed.

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Blair considers vote compromise to placate unions

Jill Sherman on Labour's choice between TUC and CBI

THE Prime Minister is considering a compromise designed to head off his biggest confrontation with the unions since the general election.

Union leaders are appealing directly to MPs and ministers against what they see as a betrayal of a manifesto promise to increase their influence in the workplace. They claim that Tony Blair is planning to deny them the right to be recognised as negotiators on pay and conditions for workers who have voted in favour.

Tomorrow a group of Labour MPs will meet Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, to express concern over signs that Mr Blair is bowing to employers' demands to water down recognition rights.

A TUC delegation including leaders of the five biggest unions is also due to meet Mrs Beckett early next week to urge her to honour Labour's manifesto commitment, one of the few pledges to improve union rights.

Downing Street claims that no decision has been made but the Cabinet is believed to be split. Mrs Beckett and Ian McCartney, her deputy, support the TUC position, but the Mr Blair favours the CBI.

The row centres on the interpretation of the manifesto

wording, which says that unions should be recognised "where a majority of the relevant workforce vote in a ballot for the union to represent them". A White Paper spelling out trade union rights is expected to be published in April, with legislation to follow next year. But ministers are still undecided how to interpret the election pledge.

The TUC says the wording means that unions will win recognition if the move is backed by 50 per cent of those who cast a vote. The CBI says the phrase means that recognition must be backed 50 per cent of the whole workforce, irrespective of how many bother to vote. This would mean that abstentions would count as a "no" vote so that a 70 per cent vote in favour on a 70 per cent turnout would result in a rejection of union recognition. It is understood that the wording in the manifesto was deliberately crafted to be open to interpretation.

Union leaders are warning that if the Government does not back the TUC's interpretation, which they say ministers agreed to before the election, they could lower or stop their donations to the party.

Yesterday Labour officials said that the Government was considering a compromise as

a last resort. This would mean setting a threshold for participation in a ballot, below which it would be declared invalid. Party sources suggested this could be as high as 80 or 90 per cent of the workforce. Unions would probably consider this too high but some union leaders are said to be willing to accept the principle of a minimum turnout if they cannot get their way.

The Prime Minister had hoped that the unions would be able to come to an agreement with the CBI but officials now concede that this is almost impossible. Mr Blair is determined not to be seen to bow to union demands but does not want an unnecessary confrontation, which could provoke a damaging rebellion by Labour MPs. He has already been warned by the parliamentary committee that there is growing anger among backbenchers, with most supporting the TUC view.

Meanwhile the unions have been lobbying Labour MPs, all of whom were sent a letter by the TUC last week telling them that, if they had stood for election on the basis of the CBI's interpretation, all but 14 would never have reached the Commons.

Leading article, page 17



Hague told to polish his TV act

By Polly Newton
POLITICAL REPORTER

WILLIAM HAGUE'S television performances are causing concern among senior Tories who fear that he will never win over more voters without improving his skills in front of the camera.

Critics of his style want him to spend more time studying videos of his television appearances so that he can learn from his mistakes. One said: "He's an intelligent man - he would soon see where he is going wrong."

Shadow Cabinet members are among those who say that Mr Hague has failed to address what one described as "the television problem" in the eight months since he became party leader. They

believe that he comes across either as stuffy and humourless or as a political lightweight.

One complained: "He sometimes laughs at inappropriate moments, which betrays his age. He seems to lack gravitas." Another said: "Everyone who meets him in person likes him, but on television he is very wooden."

The criticisms were echoed by Irene Nathan, president of the Federation of Image Consultants, who said that Mr Hague often appeared to television viewers as "self-important but not powerful". He was in danger of seeming slightly arrogant, she said.

"The first thing William Hague should do is to get a speech therapist. He comes across as too comfortable, too cosy -

almost as if he's the Prime Minister." There is little complaint about Mr Hague's efforts in the Commons chamber, where he is perceived by Tory MPs to be more than a match for Tony Blair.

Mr Hague has also proved himself to be an effective speech-maker. His recent after-dinner speech to the Lord's Taverners, the fundraising celebrity cricket team, was a huge success despite concern that he had to address the gathering immediately after the comedian Rory Bremner.

However, a source close to Mr Hague emphasised that television skills were vital. "Television is an important medium. Everyone needs to be focusing on that. Most people these days get their news from the broadcast media."

Cabinet to back Jackson for mayor

By Andrew Pierce
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR has decided to back Glenda Jackson as the Labour candidate in the Mayor of London election in an attempt to thwart the leftwing MP Ken Livingstone.

Private polling by Labour has shown that Mr Livingstone, the former leader of the Greater London Council, is well ahead among party supporters. But Ms Jackson, whose fame as an Oscar-winning actress will give her automatic standing on the world stage, is in second place.

Ms Jackson, the Transport Minister, is said to have decided to run, although she has yet to declare her candidacy. If, as expected, the candidate is chosen by Labour activists on a one member, one vote system, she will have the full backing of the Cabinet. Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, is another possible anti-Livingstone candidate.

The Labour leadership believes that Ms Jackson, MP for Hamstead and Highgate, is the only one capable of overhauling Mr Livingstone, who has recreated his role as champion of Labour's leftwing rebels.

It was as leader of the GEC that Mr Livingstone earned the nickname "Red Ken", having waged a war with the Tory Government and the Labour leadership. Even some Tories have welcomed the prospect of a Livingstone victory.

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Police pressure urged to make shops fight crime

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE should withdraw their services from businesses that fail to protect their own premises from criminals, a Home Office research group recommended yesterday.

Public houses, shops, clubs and organisations such as schools, hospitals and universities could all do more to deter or prevent crime, the group said in a report. They were not having to pay for the full cost of their failure to take adequate action, because the police bill was met by the taxpayer.

Police should refuse to respond to reports of thefts from shops that have persistently ignored crime prevention advice, the report said. It gave the example of a record store in the West End of London that was responsible for 40 per cent of the arrests made by officers from the local station. The store was forced to change its disc and tape displays

when police threatened to caution and release thieves rather than prosecute them.

The report also recommended publishing the names of organisations that failed to tackle crime. Gloria Laycock, head of Home Office police research group, recalled yesterday how the motor industry had been "shamed" into action. "Manufacturers did not improve car security out of a sense of social responsibility but because we published the car theft index. There may be other examples where police have to get tough," she said.

The Association of Chief Police Officers said there was nothing to stop police withdrawing services from organisations that failed to take crime prevention measures. Some forces were already refusing to turn out to commercial premises with a record of frequent false alarms.

The Home Office gave no indication of whether it supported the recommendations. But a report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary expressed support. It said: "Systematic thought needs to be given to ways in which leverage can be applied such as public shaming, or threats of public shaming, threats to withdraw or reduce services, appeals to feelings of civic responsibility and so on."

The inspectorate's report also said that police efforts at crime prevention were largely "ineffective and wasteful". Although forces understood the benefits of crime prevention, few were properly implementing well-thought-out solutions.

The police service did not consider 'Neighbourhood Watch to have much of a role in crime prevention. Only a fifth of 43 forces had a specific role for the scheme.

However, a few forces with effective procedures were able to achieve significant reductions in crime of up to 15 per cent last year and up to 40 per cent over five years.

Tory MP launches memorial campaign

By James Landale

A CROSS-PARTY campaign to protect thousands of war memorials from neglect was launched in the Commons yesterday.

The Tory MP David Maclean urged ministers to consider ways of encouraging local authorities to do more to identify and maintain the monuments, many of which were damaged or badly eroded. Councils should be the "the carer of last resort" if no alternative protector could be found.

Mr Maclean, a former minister, was introducing the War Memorials Preservation Bill under the ten-minute rule. Although it has no chance of becoming law it has won support from MPs on all sides.

Friends of War Memorials, a charity set up three years ago, estimates that there are at least 50,000 monuments and plaques across the country. Mr Maclean called for changes to legislation that could help to protect them, and steps to raise the necessary funds. He said: "Destruction and neglect of memorials sends the wrong signals to our younger generations, that war and the death it brings is of little importance."

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons from 8.50am, short backbench debate from 2.50pm. Northern Ireland questions. Prime Minister's Questions. Debate on Welsh Revenue Support Grant Report. Greater London Authority (Pensions) Bill. Lords amendments short debate on Hyattburn Hill Road. In the Lords: debate on protection of the countryside. Proposed replacement of Peps and Yellac. Mental Health (Amendment) Bill, second reading.

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Why disabled dancer kept recovery secret

Robin Young reports as woman set free from court tells how she lied after the shock of walking again

A FORMER dancer whose courage in dealing with disability made her a public figure told yesterday how she kept secret the fact that she was able to walk again.

Haskell, 34, was speaking after she went free from court for faking attacks on her flat at a time when she was supposedly bedridden. Police had set up a secret camera to film a reported stalker, but instead the camera caught her smashing up her own home before blaming it on vandals.

"I wanted to get caught so that someone else could help me with what was going on," she said yesterday. "I was on the edge of a breakdown. I never meant any harm. I had got to the point where it was either a lethal injection or I stepped outside the door and faced the world."

Haskell, from Oldham, Greater Manchester, pleaded guilty to three charges of criminal damage and wasting police time. She received a four-month suspended sentence and was also ordered to pay £450 to her landlords, a housing association, and £100 costs. Barry Cave, chairman of the Oldham Bench, said the sentence was suspended because of exceptional circumstances.

John Pollitt, for the defence, said Haskell had been a talented and successful dancer until she was 21, when she had been diagnosed with the progressive illness transverse myelitis. In August 1986 she was told the chances of recovery were negligible, and was wheelchair-bound for five years.

Mr Pollitt said: "As a disabled person, she had become a public figure, championing

disabled rights and she was an inspiration for number of people." She was named Woman of Oldham in 1993 and had helped to raise £60,000 for spinal research. However, she became convinced privately that she had recovered sensation in her right leg. "That raised more problems than it solved. She didn't want to raise the hopes of people who were close to her, particularly her family, and she had come to terms with her disability. She felt under continued pressure to live a lie." She also felt a duty to people employed as carers. She was under continuous pressure from abusive calls.

I wanted to get caught so that someone else could help me with what was going on

and had behaved in a "very bizarre" way. "She was desperate emotionally, unstable and went in search of physical help from the police and ambulance service. She is a lady who will need help in the long term."

Outside court Haskell, using two sticks to walk, broke down in tears and said: "Dancing was my world. I loved teaching dance, especially ballet. I was told I would be paralysed for ever. At one point, I was given just weeks to live and I have undergone major surgery. Most women my age are preparing to get married or building up a family home. I was planning my funeral. Then, three years ago, I began to get pains in my right

leg. I couldn't believe it. It threw my world into turmoil. It was such a shock. I wasn't sure if it was my mind playing tricks on me, but then I started getting more sensation. I told my consultant, but he just dismissed me, so gradually I taught myself to walk again. I remember standing up for the first time and then falling back on the bed. I could not believe what was happening. I would draw the curtains so no one could see me then spend hours practising. I didn't tell my parents or anyone else because I didn't want to get their hopes up. As time went on and I got better and better, I became more petrified."

During her recovery, she said, she received threatening calls and told police someone was stalking her. A panic line to her house was removed because she used it too often. Police offered to set up cameras inside and out, but she refused. "I told them I didn't want the cameras inside. They would have seen I was improving and it would have hampered my progress. But I knew they had put the cameras up. I wanted to get caught."

She was filmed walking unaided, and breaking her intercom system, her kitchen window and her front door with a hammer. "I know what I did was wrong. I can't remember much about attacking the door or intercom. I am sorry. I never meant any harm."

"Anyone who is disabled will tell you that you go to the pits and back many times. My illness could still put me back in a wheelchair. I just want to get on with the rest of my life. Soon it is one year since I put my two feet to the ground. That is a time to start celebrating what should have been a happy occasion."

Her mother, Sylvia, 57, said: "No more heartache, no more crying. Just complete joy."



Danielle Haskell yesterday. She said: "I just want to get on with my life"

Boy, 16, in third sex attack on Sussex rail line

By Adam Prescott

A BOY aged 16 has been subjected to a sexual assault by an attacker who forced him into the lavatory of a London-bound train at knife-point.

The boy had been to Eastbourne for the day with friends and was returning home to Haywards Heath, West Sussex. As he went into the lavatory the man threatened him with a tin knife and held the weapon to his throat and ordered him to strip before seriously sexually assaulting him for more than half an hour.

The victim did not get off the train until it reached London, when he travelled back to Haywards Heath. He told his parents on Sunday evening of the attack, which took place the previous day. He was taken to a police counselling suite.

Officers are checking closed-circuit television monitors at stations in an attempt to identify the attacker, who is described as Afro-Caribbean with a Jamaican accent, in his twenties, 5ft 10in and of athletic build. He was wearing sunglasses and a grey-patterned baseball cap.

It is the third attack on an East Sussex railway line in two weeks. A female Czech student was sexually assaulted, beaten and left for dead in the lavatory of a Hastings train, and a 15-year-old girl was raped after she left Hastings station. Police are not linking these attacks with the latest assault.

Chief Superintendent Matthew Saunders said yesterday that the Czech student was flown home at the weekend. "She is still poorly but she is conscious and able to speak a little bit, but is still not well enough for police to interview her," he said.

"She left hospital with a nurse and returned home in an air ambulance. Her parents had already left for their home."

The teenager, who has not been named, was found unconscious in a cubicle last month. "Doctors believe" it could be six months before she recalls what happened.

'Suicide' harassers guilty

Five teenagers pleaded guilty at Derby Magistrates' Court to harassing a teenage girl who later apparently committed suicide. They have been told that they may face a custodial sentence.

The group are aged between 15 and 17. Kelly Yeomans, 15, and her family had been harassed at their home in Allenton, Derbyshire, in the months before she died last September.

The youths will be sentenced next month. The case against a 15-year-old girl, who at an earlier hearing pleaded not guilty, was adjourned for trial in April.

Fish peacekeeper

A Royal Navy fisheries protection vessel, HMS *Guernsey*, was patrolling the Channel last night to prevent a renewal of hostilities between Belgian and French trawlers who clashed off Dungeness on the Kent coast.

Silver lining

The Earl of St Germans has been told by an industrial tribunal in Plymouth to make a token payment to Teresa Triscott, a housekeeper sacked after complaining that cleaning the family silver gave her a pain in the neck.

Line of inquiry

British Transport Police are seeking special constables for the first time, because of expansion by rail companies. About 450 will work part-time for expenses only, mainly in the evenings and at weekends at their local stations.

Blind dog's guide

A Jack Russell blinded after being stabbed in the eye in Aveley, Essex, has come to rely on another terrier taken to the council dog pound at the same time to act as his guide dog. It is hoped they can be housed together.

Wrong footed

Thieves stole 190 shoes from a selection's van, only to discover that every one was right-footed. The entire haul was later found dumped a few miles away from the scene of the theft in Newton Abbot, Devon.

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Holiday show turns pink in the sun

TELEVISION producers are seeking a couple to front a new holiday programme (Carol Middley writes). There is one condition: the happy partners must be homosexual. Just Television, the independent production company behind *Trial and Error*, David Jessel's Channel 4 series about miscarriages of justice, says it wants a same-sex couple to make the first homosexual foray into territory normally occupied by Judith Chalmers and Anthea Turner. They must have been together for years and have a "cosy, domestic relationship".

Mr Holmes, who also produced and created Channel 4's *Real Holiday Show*, said the likes of Julian Clary, Boy George and Sir Elton John need not apply. "We are looking for new, fresh faces," he said. "We want to discover new talent from a couple who have been together a long time and have characters - a Richard and Rudy or a Zoe and Chloe."

Mr Holmes said that the programme, planned for screening on Channel 4 this autumn, would be aimed at homosexuals but also designed to attract a mainstream audience: "Gay couples don't just go to Ibiza; they go on backpacking holidays around Thailand as well."

Nowt so steamy as Yorkshire folk

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE inhabitants of Yorkshire relaxed in a steam bath after a hard day long before the Romans or Scandinavians had thought of the idea, it has been discovered.

Tim Laurie, an amateur archaeologist, has examined scores of Bronze Age "burnt mounds" in the northern Dales and dismisses the accepted explanation that they were just open-air kitchens.

"Of the 60 plus sites I have found, not one has any debris from cooking. There was no pottery or flint," he said. "These depressions, I feel, were used for anything that needed hot water, including steam baths. I think they may have been used as well for cooking food, which was mainly deer and wild pig."

Mr Laurie, a quantity surveyor from Darlington, Co Durham, has been working on archaeological projects for the Yorkshire Dales National Park for ten years. He believes the sauna sweatshouses were constructed from sticks and animal skin over hot rocks.

The mounds were discovered in Ireland in the 1920s. Others have since been found in the Midlands, the Lake District and Northumberland.

Stuart Needham, curator of Bronze Age antiquities at the British Museum, was cautious: "I suppose sauna use is a plausible explanation," he said. "But I think cooking is a preferable one. The absence of evidence has to be viewed very carefully."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

'Suicide' harasser guilty

Five teenagers pleaded guilty at Derby Magistrates' Court to harassing a woman who later attempted suicide. The youths, aged between 13 and 17, had been harassed since the summer of 1996. The group was charged with harassment under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. The youths will be sentenced next month. A 15-year-old girl, charged with an earlier offence, was found guilty in April.

Fish peacocks

A Royal Navy fishery protection vessel, HMS ... was patrolling the Channel last night in a renewal of hostilities between Belgium and the United Kingdom over the danger of the fishery.

Silver lining

The Earl of St Germain has been told by an tribunal in Plymouth that he must pay a £100,000 fine after claiming the fishery was her pain in the neck.

Line of inquiry

British Transport Police are investigating a special case for the first time. The investigation is on a special 451 will only be used in emergencies and at local stations.

Blind dog's

A Jack Russell terrier was stabbed in the back in Essex in a case which is being investigated by the council dog wardens. It is believed to be a hunting dog.

Wrong foot

Police have found a stolen van, off which a man had been driven away from his home in Newham.

Bank in the sun

People who have been harassed by a bank have been told that the police are on the case. The police are looking for a man who is believed to be a bank employee.

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Boys who will be boys develop a taste for literature

Teachers who prevent pupils from playing rough games are stifling their creativity, writes David Charter

WOMEN teachers who stop young boys playing rough games are stifling the development of their literacy skills, government advisers said yesterday. Boys should not be told off for boisterous behaviour but encouraged to develop characters and storylines in their play, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority said.

For older boys, increasing numbers of schools are fostering enthusiasm for reading by using a biography of Paul Gascoigne, the footballer, the Basic Skills Agency said yesterday. The book was much in demand by schools, and was

more popular than titles on Arnold Schwarzenegger, Marilyn Monroe and Oasis in a series endorsed by the agency.

Research for the QCA showed that female nursery and primary school staff tended to disapprove of young boys "action-packed" play. But when teachers encouraged boys to explain and develop their actions, they found that they had invented complex storylines.

The research was commissioned for the QCA's *Can Do Better* report

on strategies to close the gap between boys and girls in achievement in reading and writing. In English GCSE, 65 per cent of girls achieve grade C or above compared with 43 per cent of boys.

Nick Tate, chief executive of the QCA, said: "There are many primary schools with exclusively female teachers, and there is a particular responsibility on them to make sure they recognise the needs of boys as well as girls."

He added: "We know that from

the age of five onwards, the girls are doing very much better than the boys. The gap gets greater and greater, and by 16 girls are doing strikingly better in GCSEs."

Dr Tate said teachers should adapt their teaching of English so that it was integrated with boys' activities. "When boys are running around and apparently just being noisy, teachers need to draw out from the boys what they value from it so they can develop it," he said.

Sue Horner, head of English at

the QCA, added: "In one study, when nursery teachers looked at how the boys were playing, they thought it was all blood and fighting, but there was actually more going on than what the teachers first perceived."

She added: "They found that they were getting further by intervening to move the play on rather than stopping it. They found that there was just as much of a storyline as the girls sitting playing at houses. The problem was in the teachers' perceptions of what the boys were doing."

Advice in *Can Do Better* aimed at capturing the interest of older boys includes using detective fiction by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Raymond Chandler. The QCA also said it was important for schools to check that fathers were reading with their sons in the evening.

Surveys of boys' views for the QCA repeatedly showed a dislike for poetry, but Dr Tate said that

there were works that seemed to appeal to boys, for example Homer's *Iliad*. Dr Tate added: "It's action-packed, it has bounce and rhythm and vitality and excitement and danger. That is what is going to get a lot of boys interested."

The Basic Skills Agency endorses a series of easy-to-read biographies published by Hodder & Stoughton, which will shortly add histories of the Spice Girls and Diana, Princess of Wales, to the collection. Each book, which demands a reading age of six to ten, is aimed at struggling secondary school pupils or young adult readers.

Carey asks for church tax burden to be eased

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE nation's churches are being crippled by unfair taxation, which is imposing impossible demands on tiny congregations in remote rural areas, the General Synod of the Church of England was told yesterday.

One congregation decided to demolish their church rather than pay the VAT that would have been due on essential repairs, the synod was told.

Bishops have repeatedly suggested that individuals should pay more income tax to help to subsidise higher employment and other social policies. But yesterday the Church was begging for its own tax burden to be reduced. The archbishops of Canterbury and York, Dr George Carey and Dr David Hope, will visit Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, in an attempt to persuade him to cut VAT on church repairs from 17.5 per cent to 5 per cent. The churches of England pay more to the Government in VAT than the Government gives them in grant aid, the synod was told.

Tony Redman of the St Edmundsbury diocese described how the parish of South Cove in Suffolk, consisting of 17 churches out of a population of 37, recently had to find £60,000 to re-roof its Grade I listed 13th-century church.

"The village set to raise the money with remarkable community spirit and put up a brave fight to protect its church," Mr Redman said.

"They fought with flower festivals, art shows, jumble sales and craft fairs, with bonfire night parties and Christmas bazaars."

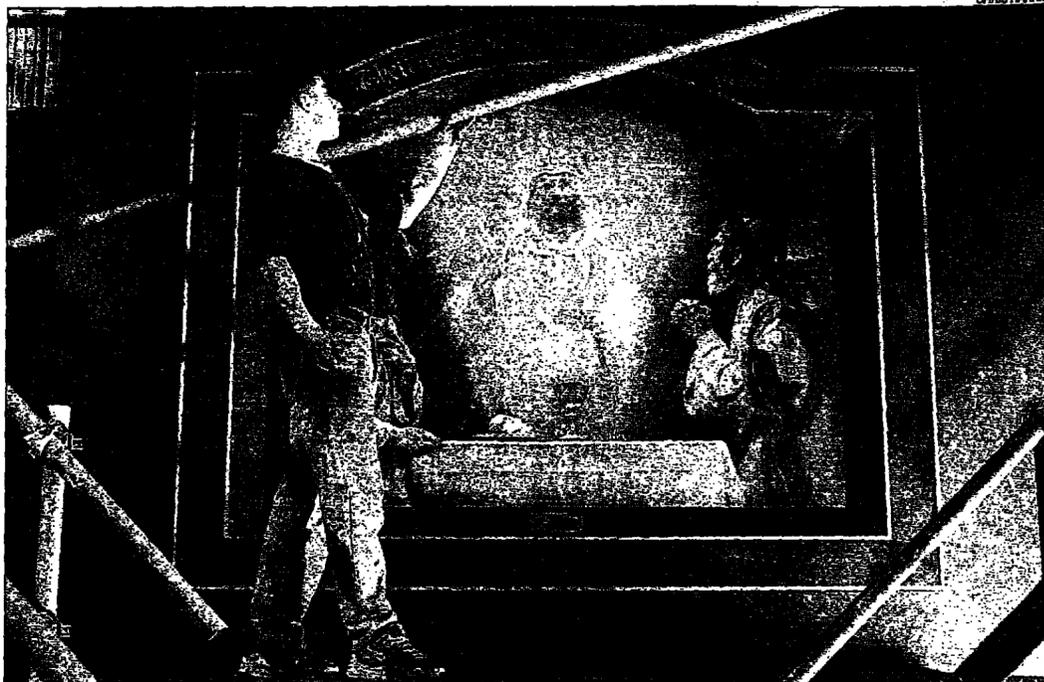
They were delighted to receive a grant of £15,000 from English Heritage but dismayed when £10,000 had to be returned to the Exchequer in the form of VAT.

Mr Redman said the synod was not asking the Government to make the churches a special case for VAT. "What we are asking is for the Government, as it streamlines the present tax system, to demonstrate its commitment to the nation's Christian heritage in a tangible way."

The Right Rev Colin Scott, Bishop of Hulme in the Manchester diocese, said: "Parochial church councils are obliged under church law to repair their buildings and, if they are listed, local authorities can compel them to repair their buildings."

He added: "One parish decided to save VAT by demolishing the whole church building. They decided to build a new structure which is an addition to a charitable building and, as long as they are careful about the design, it will be zero-rated."

Sir Patrick Cormack, Conservative MP for Staffordshire South and a synod member, said: "Churches are a Mecca for tourists. They bring indirectly a great deal of money into the country. It is a great nonsense that they are paying back in VAT more than they are receiving in grants."



Preparations start to repair St John's Church in Hoxton, East London. The synod was told of one church being demolished over a VAT bill.

Christians send invitation to every home

Ruth Gledhill reports on a mailshot for a ten-week course in fundamental beliefs

AN INVITATION to attend local courses on the basics of Christianity is being sent to everyone in the country. The ten-week Alpha course is a practical introduction to Christianity designed for non-churchgoers and converts. It is free and attendance often results in long-term commitment to a church.

The worldwide take-up of the course has received support from across the denominations and has astonished church leaders by its success. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said: "I think it is superb. I commend it wholeheartedly."

The fact that it is an initiative from the established Church of England, the mother church of the worldwide Anglican communion, has given the course a credibility that other evangelical initiatives have sometimes lacked.

The invitations are being sent by Holy Trinity Brompton, in Knightsbridge, West London.

There, the course has led to so many people turning up to church each week that the number of services are constantly increasing to cope with all the newcomers. While established members are often encouraged to join new "church plants" founded by Holy Trinity to rescue a dying or struggling parish from extinction.

Holy Trinity, which has an electoral roll of almost 700 but an average Sunday attendance of 2,000, this week disclosed in its annual report an annual income of more than £23 mil-

lion from covenants, collections, donations and other sources, making it the wealthiest parish church in the country. However, the church, which expects to spend £743,000 on Alpha books, conferences and other resources alone next year, appeals in its annual report for a further £1.1 million in donations to fund its ministry.

The course was established at the Knightsbridge church 20 years ago, and there are now 4,000 churches running courses in Britain and overseas. At Holy Trinity, Alpha courses run throughout the year with 500 people attending each week. The campaign to invite every person

in the country to attend a local course is thought to be an unparalleled initiative from the Church of England. Thousands of churches nationwide will be sent brochures and a promotional video, featuring the Rev Sandy Millar, vicar of Holy Trinity, and his curate, the Rev Nicky Gumbel, the architect of Alpha, explaining the promotion.

Churches will be invited to donate £100 each towards the campaign to pay for billboard advertising nationwide, posters for church noticeboards, local newspaper advertisements and leaflets for local distribution by churches.

The campaign, to be launched in September, is expected to cost £250,000. However, one "gift day" at Holy Trinity raised £370,000 in donations and pledges. A second gift day is planned for September.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Couple's £2m win in the bin

A couple who waited until yesterday before collecting a £2.4 million Christmas Eve lottery prize had thrown their winning ticket in the dustbin. Colin Stewart, an architect, and his wife Agnes, an assistant occupational therapist, from Haddington, Lothian, bought the ticket before spending the festive season with their daughter in Germany, and then forgot to check the results.

On Monday Mr Stewart, 61, read reports of an unclaimed jackpot and recognised the numbers. His wife had cleaned out her handbag three days earlier. He said: "We must be the luckiest lottery winners yet."

Disaster relief

Relatives of disaster victims will be spared the ordeal of facing a series of investigations. As from today, in the event of inquiries by more than one prosecuting authority, they will act together in one joint prosecution.

Record pace

Tracy Edwards and her crew of ten women are on course to beat the round-the-world sailing record. Their 92ft catamaran has sailed 2,210 miles out of 32,000 in a week, ahead of the pace set by the French record holder last year.

Assembly fault

Sainsbury's has been told by the Advertising Standards Authority to remove an advertisement implying that one of its pizzas is imported from America. Although some ingredients come from the US, it is assembled in Britain.

Police chief guilty

David Howe, former deputy chief constable of Merseyside, was put on probation for 12 months by magistrates in Kendal, Cumbria, after admitting driving while more than three times over the legal alcohol limit.

Letting it slide

A boy aged 14 arrested for pouring water on a road to make an "ice slide" near his home in Selby, North Yorkshire, won an absolute discharge from York magistrates. He earlier pleaded guilty to endangering road users.

Good impression

Rory Bremner has been named showbusiness personality of the year by the Variety Club. Robert Carlyle and Kathy Burke were named best film actor and actress at the awards ceremony at the London Hilton.

Coded apology

Tourist officials have received an apology from West Midlands Police after complaining that an investigation into sexual assaults was code-named Operation Blackpool. Police said codenames were chosen randomly by computer.

NHS stretched to limit, MPs told

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

PRESSURES on the National Health Service are bringing some areas close to breaking point, the chief executive of its management executive admitted yesterday.

Questioned about the 92,000 complaints laid against the NHS last year, Alan Langlands told the Commons Select Committee on Public Administration: "There are some parts of the health service which at times are working to the absolute limit. The elastic is being stretched sometimes to a degree one can be quite worried about."

Mr Langlands said the vast majority of the thousands of patients treated daily received good care "in extremely difficult and stressful circumstances... and that reflects enormous credit on the staff. But sometimes things will go

wrong." He blamed a number of factors, including high staff turnover, changes in the organisation of the NHS and the lack of detailed monitoring procedures for the more serious complaints investigated by the Ombudsman.

"There have been very clear failures of basic hands-on care and clear systems failures," he said. "I can't put that down to any one factor such as lack of money or training. There are multiple factors."

Rhodri Morgan, the Labour MP for Cardiff West who chairs the committee, described Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge and University College London hospitals as "recidivists". Both had had complaints upheld against them by the Ombudsman in the past, had promised to do better and had then reoffended. Mr Lang-



Langlands: blamed a number of factors

land said that he could not condone anyone who deliberately made a promise of action they had no intention of keeping. However, government regulations were being brought in to change such situations. Ronald Campbell, Labour MP for Blyth Valley, said he

had been a member of the committee for ten years and things seemed to be getting worse. "There seems to be a drop in standards," he said. "The cases are getting worse than three or four years ago. We are finding the standard of care is far worse. People are dying because of the low standards. It really is getting out of hand and needs someone to get a grip of it. No one wants to go to hospital to die. When they do die there seems a lack of compassion."

The Ombudsman had found that at St George's Hospital in London the family of one patient had found out that he had died from the coroner. "No doctor or nurse got in touch with them to warn them that he was dying so they could be with him at the end. That was quite appalling," Mr Campbell said. "Is something going wrong with the system?"

Ashworth head admits lack of experience

By TIM JONES

THE former chief executive of Ashworth Hospital, which has been at the centre of drug, pornography and child sex abuse allegations, said yesterday that she had no experience of psychopathic disorders when she was appointed.

Janice Miles said that one of her first acts at the special secure hospital in Merseyside five years ago was to put patients suffering from personality disorders into one unit. Before that, they were with patients suffering from mental illnesses or learning difficulties.

Ms Miles, who resigned after being suspended in February last year, said: "Some people said we were very brave, putting all the person-

ality disorder patients together, but I don't think there was any other choice at the time.

"When I started at the hospital, I didn't have the expertise with psychopathic disorder patients. It was only when they were split up more that I realised the complex nature of their disorders."

The continuing inquiry, which yesterday was held in London after earlier hearings in Merseyside, has been told that patients had access to pornographic literature and videos, drugs and alcohol. It is claimed that a girl aged eight was allowed to play unsupervised with a sex offender.

Ms Miles said that she introduced a devolved management structure and took responsibility for the day-to-day running of four new units.

She said that this created tension with some senior members of staff whom she refused to name.

"For some staff, life had been easy and we were putting on pressure to improve clinical practice and adopt very new ways of dealing with patients," she said. "Some found that very hard because they had to work hard."

Ms Miles said that after a period when many patients had absconded, some consultants had challenged her orders to cancel their leave of absence. Some patient care teams resisted instructions to search patients and their wards, and had to be reminded that they were mandatory.

The inquiry, established by the Department of Health, continues.



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سكذامن الاصل

British women lead Oscar race

This year's award nominations are a showcase for imported talent, with the Best Actress award particularly likely to cross the Atlantic, writes Giles Whittell from Los Angeles



De Niro, detained while filming in Paris

French question De Niro in vice inquiry

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ROBERT DE NIRO, the American film actor, was detained by French police yesterday and questioned in connection with an investigation into an international prostitution ring.

Mr De Niro, 54, who is making a film in Paris, was picked up by police at the Hotel Bristol around midday and interviewed for more than six hours "as a witness".

The Oscar-winning actor was brought in for questioning on a warrant issued by Judge Frédéric N'Guyen who has spent more than a year investigating an international vice network believed to involve many celebrities.

The inquiry has already involved the former Polish tennis champion, Wojtek Fibak, who is under investigation for "sexual aggression", and the French film producer Alain Sarde, who is facing charges of rape and attempted rape.

Mr De Niro is in Paris for the filming of *Ronin*, a spy thriller co-starring Jonathan Pryce, Jean Reno and Natasha McElhone, and directed by John Frankenheimer.

Elizabeth Guigou, the French Justice Minister, has been reported as saying that the vice investigation could ruin "powerful men in several nations".

BRITAIN'S leading ladies were the toast of Hollywood yesterday, winning four out of five Best Actress nominations for this year's Oscars. Dame Judi Dench, Kate Winslet, Julie Christie and Helena Bonham Carter completed a virtual clean sweep in their category, while *The Full Monty* was a surprise winner of four nominations and *Titanic* equalled a record that has stood for 47 years.

James Cameron's three-hour epic dominated the announcements, winning 14 nominations, including two for Mr Cameron, but the British takeover of the leading actress shortlist was as remarkable.

Dame Judi was being talked of yesterday as a firm favourite for her portrayal of a widowed Queen Victoria in *Mrs Brown*, while Julie Christie's nomination may already be reward enough.

Ms Bonham Carter was nominated for *The Wings of the Dove*, the sumptuous British Henry James adaptation, while Minnie Driver won a Best Supporting Actress nomination for her role in *Good Will Hunting*.

In *Titanic's* wake, the year's favourite films among the 5,000 film professionals who vote on the Oscars included a pair of solid studio productions paying homage to old genres and an upstart hit that has made instant stars of two young newcomers.

Good Will Hunting, a coming-of-age weepie written by Steven Spielberg, whose slavery saga, *Amistad*, was ignored in the Best Film and Best Director categories.

It won four nominations in all, while Jim Sheridan's critically acclaimed *The Boxer*, starring Daniel Day-Lewis as an Ulster pugilist, did not win any.

None of *The Full Monty's* cast won acting nominations, but in an implicit recognition of their strength as an ensemble the film squeezed out *Boogie Nights* on the highly competitive Best Film shortlist, and won nominations for Peter Cattaneo as director and Simon Beaufoy for its screenplay.

This year's Oscar contenders were under less illusions that *Titanic* could sweep the board, having won more nominations than any film since *All About Eve* in 1950.

and starring Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, won nine nominations, including one for its screenplay. *LA Confidential*, a "neo-noir" police thriller, also won nine nominations, while *As Good As It Gets* took seven.

Sir Anthony Hopkins, who plays John Quincy Adams in *Amistad*, was Britain's only male acting nominee in a year of show-stealing performances by Hollywood's veterans. Burt Reynolds, at 61, was shortlisted for the first time for his role as a pornographer in *Boogie Nights*.

Robert Duvall was a Best Actor nominee for *The Apostle*, as were Peter Fonda (*Ulee's Gold*), Dustin Hoffman (a producer hired to control a presidential sex scandal in *Wag the Dog*) and Jack Nicholson (*As Good As It Gets*), whose eleventh nomination broke a record he had shared with Lord Olivier.

Yesterday brought disappointment for her faithless husband, gave her her first big role in decades.

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Britain's winning women include Kate Winslet, above, for her part in *Titanic*. Helena Bonham Carter, below left, for *The Wings of the Dove*, and Julie Christie for *Afterglow*. Dame Judi Dench won the fourth of the five Best Actress nominations for *Mrs Brown*



"Titanic is titanic," Curran Hanson, a Best Director nominee for *LA Confidential*, said. Leonardo DiCaprio, *Titanic's* youthful lead, has won the hearts of millions of Japanese teenagers but no acting nomination.

Acress. The pair are the first to be nominated for the same role in the same film. British nominees in minor categories included Janet Patterson and Sandy Powell for costume design in *Oscar and Lucinda* and *The Wings of the Dove* respectively.

Giuliani, the Mayor, and the organisers of the Grammy Awards, the music industry's "Oscars", that threatens to drive the event out of New York forever after this year's ceremony on February 25 (Tunku Varadarajan writes). If the Grammy Awards leave New York, the city's economy could lose an estimated \$40 million (£24 million).

Rebel daughters get \$50m each

New York: A Texan billionaire sued by two of his daughters for every cent appears to have placated his children with an out-of-court offer of more than \$50 million (£31 million) each (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Harold Simmons, who controls one of America's largest chemicals and natural resources corporations, ended a bitter legal dispute which had threatened to wreck a business empire built from scratch over 33 years.

control. When the taxman became wise, Mr Simmons altered the status of the trusts, requiring the daughters to sign new deeds. Two agreed; two did not. The latter sued, arguing that he was using money from the trusts to shower jewellery on his wife, who is not the mother of the litigious daughters.

Starr calls mother of Lewinsky to testify

FROM BROWNEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

IN A new display of strong-arm tactics, Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, yesterday subpoenaed Monica Lewinsky's mother to reveal her daughter's confidences, provoking outrage from legal commentators.

A former federal prosecutor called the demand for Marcia Lewis to give evidence to the grand jury which could be used in criminal charges against her daughter a "dirty" manoeuvre. Under American law, although spouses are protected against having to testify against each other, parents and children are not.

Ms Lewinsky's mother was expected to appear before the grand jury yesterday afternoon. The lawyer for Ms Lewinsky last night called for her summons before a grand jury tomorrow to be quashed, as prosecutors' legal vice tightened around the 24-year-old former White House trainee at the heart of the sex and perjury storm surrounding President Clinton.

"She is not going to jail", William Ginsburg, Ms Lewinsky's lawyer, said, as pressures on his client mounted. "Nobody's going to abuse her. I'm not going to let that happen. She will not fall on her sword."

Following the bitter collapse of talks between Ms Ginsburg and Mr Starr about the terms on which Ms Lewinsky would voluntarily give testimony, both sides are now preparing for a courtroom showdown.

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Cook rules out compromise

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND MICHAEL BINTON

ROBIN COOK yesterday disclosed the West's readiness to hit at President Saddam Hussein's power base in Iraq as he issued a warning to the United Nations that there could be no compromise on demands for the opening up of all weapons sites.

The Foreign Secretary told MPs that Saddam should be under no illusion that if military force was required, "the military force that keeps him in power will be hit hard".

He was responding to a strongly supportive intervention from John Major, Prime Minister at the time of the Gulf War, who told him that if the West decided to target Saddam's Republican Guard the Commons should back the action. Saddam was a "psychopath without conscience".

In his first Commons intervention since the election last May, Mr Major said that there must be no concessions to Saddam. Mr Major said that if it was necessary to use military force then the Foreign Secretary "will deserve the support of this side of the House and I hope he will get it".

He said that such action should not just be of a kind which would be successful in the short term "but which will limit Saddam Hussein's ability to play these games with the international community in the future". Mr Major said: "If that requires the difficult decision to target the Republican Guard which

BRITAIN

sustains his evil regime within his country, then if such targeting is carried out, it would deserve the support of this House."

Mr Cook told him that the nature of the regime they were dealing with could be better understood by the realisation that in the past two months the regime had "cleansed" its prisons by executing every

prisoner serving more than 15 years. "Saddam does keep himself in power through fear and through force."

Mr Cook appeared to rebuff calls from Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, to help Saddam back down without losing face. There were differing interpretations over whether that amounted to a call for a compromise, but Mr Annan had urged "flexibility".

Interviewed on BBC Radio 4's

Today programme, Mr Annan insisted on the need to offer the Iraqis a way out to avoid military confrontation. "They have painted themselves into a corner and we need to work with them to get them to back down," he said. "But I think we should not insist on humiliating them."

But Mr Cook told the Commons: "The objective of this exercise is to make sure we find these weapons and dismantle these weapons. Any

flexibility that stops us from doing that leaves us with an agreement that is not worth having."

Ministers believe such calls for solely diplomatic solutions can only be counter-productive. Mr Cook said the best prospect for a diplomatic solution was to leave Saddam in no doubt of Western resolve if he persisted. "He would be making a major miscalculation if he mistook our reluctance to use force with a lack of determination to use it if necessary."

However Tony Blair, in a television interview with Cable News Network, did impress all sides in the dispute of the "very, very great responsibility" he carried as he contemplated the prospect of ordering British servicemen and women into combat for the first time. "You're not dealing with a democratically elected leader," the Prime Minister said.

"You're dealing with an utterly unscrupulous dictator who has murdered many of his own people and, though it is a huge responsibility — and I cannot tell you how seriously it weighs upon me — I believe we are justified if he won't come back into line and allow the weapons inspectors to do their job."

Mr Cook telephoned Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, last night to discuss the international efforts to get an agreement with Iraq. Whitehall officials said he intended to keep in close touch with her, even during a visit to Panama, the Bahamas and Montserrat that begins today.

Leading article, page 17



Robin Cook makes his way to a Cabinet meeting at No 10 yesterday before making a Commons statement on Iraq



An irreverent view of the Gulf stand-off by Heng, in Singapore's Lianhe Zaobao newspaper

Iraq drives a wedge between EU partners

Saddam has made a mockery of Europe's

search for a common foreign policy,

write Charles Bremner and Roger Boyes

As the clock ticks towards a possible strike on Iraq, President Saddam Hussein can already claim one victory: the crisis has caused friction between France and Germany and made a mockery of the European Union's attempts to adopt a single voice abroad.

The Brussels foreign policy machine, bolstered in the Treaty of Amsterdam and now under London's chairmanship, has been kept out of the Iraqi crisis as France and Britain have chosen different camps, with the other EU states strung out between their two positions.

While Britain has joined the US task force, France — the only other EU member on the UN Security Council — has opposed any military action. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, went a little way down the military path at the weekend with his promise to make German airfields available in the event of an attack. This was

promptly declared by Bonn to be a political, not a military, concession. But it has already created tension with France.

"By contrast with Blair's martial posturing, Kohl included in his offer of airfield access some admissions and cautions against a new Gulf war and its consequences," said the Cologne *Stadt Anzeiger*.

The distaste for Mr Blair's performance in Washington is shared by some German foreign policy makers. "The problems were always there, but they came to the surface with Tony Blair's visit to the United States," said one diplomat. "The British Prime Minister seems to have forgotten about the Euro-

pean presidency — there was a diplomatic breakdown."

The daily *Frankfurter Rundschau* published a long editorial on this apparent oversight: "Has anyone seen the incumbent President of the European Union? Blair has more important things to do at present than lead his European flock towards joint action."

It is plain that the Chancellor was under-briefed before his weekend meeting with William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary. The offer of German air bases bore all the hallmarks of an improvisation. The Americans came to the Munich Wehrkunde

conference on Saturday expecting the outline of a joint European policy, and found nothing.

"The dispute on the means to be used against Saddam is more detrimental than anything that Baghdad itself is doing in the way of obstruction," thundered the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. "Saddam wins the first round — the allies are wrestling more with each other than with him," said the conservative *Die Welt*, adding: "The American mistake is the failure to make the simple connection clear between limited action and limited aims."

Germany's willingness to cooperate has been welcomed in Britain. But it has caused consternation in Paris, which is already worried about strains in the EU's core partnership. "Kohl risks opening a north-south division in Europe over Iraq," said a French diplomat. Tony Blair has come under fire for what some newspa-

pers are calling the "American-British punitive expedition". Much amazement greeted a claim on Sunday by George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, that Britain was "flying the European flag in the Gulf".

While continental commentators are largely hostile to involvement in what is seen as an American adventure, the EU's 12 other Governments have been keeping as quiet as possible. Italy, in anti-American mood after last week's cable car disaster involving a US aircraft, has indicated that it will not allow Gulf operations from bases on its territory.

On a tour of the Middle East, Jacques Santer, President of the Commission, deplored the EU's "non-existence" over Iraq but said Europe had no alternative but to defer to "the leading role of the United States" and the UN.

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scaling Saddam invites British MPs

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Stalling Saddam invites British MPs

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ has stepped up its diplomatic offensive by forestalling an American attack by inviting foreign politicians, including eight British MPs whom it says are opposed to force, to visit Baghdad.

Reports also said President Saddam Hussein had taken steps to protect his elite force from American and British airstrikes by readying schools and government buildings to serve as barracks for the praetorian guard.

Targeting the Special Republican Guard in densely populated areas could result in heavy civilian casualties and any horrific footage would promptly be beamed worldwide.

The invitation to foreign politicians to visit Iraq came from the foreign affairs bureau of the ruling Baath Party, which said they would be briefed on Iraq's position towards the current crisis which was manufactured by the United States.

Senior State Department officials are now engaged in talks with the Saudis with the aim of forwarding elements of US Central Command HQ from Tampa in Florida to Eskan, outside Riyadh, in preparation for military strikes.

At present the Eskan centre is used to co-ordinate hundreds of sorties carried out each week over southern Iraq. The centre was first established for the Gulf War operation in 1991 and was then modified to run the no-fly zone mission.

Both Washington and London, waiting for signs that Saddam is preparing to give up, are expected to announce a new round of sanctions imposed after the Gulf War in 1991. They could discuss the "dangerous" of the American threats of new military aggression against Iraq and the negative repercussions to regional security.

Saddam Hamud, the Iraqi parliamentary speaker, sent a separate invitation to eight British MPs whom he said had rejected the use of force. They were not named, but are certain to include left-wing Labour MPs such as Tam Dalyell and George Galloway.



US presses Saudis for access to desert HQ

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE United States is urging Saudi Arabia to allow the command headquarters for raids on Iraq to be set up near Riyadh, despite the country's opposition to military action.

Senior State Department officials are now engaged in talks with the Saudis with the aim of forwarding elements of US Central Command HQ from Tampa in Florida to Eskan, outside Riyadh, in preparation for military strikes.

Talks are also going on with other countries in the region, including Kuwait and Bahrain, for alternative sites.

However, the American military says the most suitable facilities are at Eskan because an existing command centre there which currently controls all flights involved in the no-fly zone "Southern Watch" operation over Iraq can already handle both American and allied aircraft.

COALITION

The talks were described yesterday by US military sources as "diplomatically sensitive" because of Saudi Arabia's reluctance to support offensive operations from its territory.

The US military sources said they hoped the Saudis would not only allow the Eskan HQ to co-ordinate the raids but that they would also let "support aircraft", such as air refuelling tankers, take off from Saudi bases.

At present the Eskan centre is used to co-ordinate hundreds of sorties carried out each week over southern Iraq. The centre was first established for the Gulf War operation in 1991 and was then modified to run the no-fly zone mission.



A helicopter flies by the USS George Washington yesterday. The carrier's decks are crowded with fighters being readied for action

Portugal has meanwhile authorised the United States to use the Azores islands in any attack on Iraq, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said yesterday. Tanker aircraft operating from Lajes refuelled hundreds of planes during the 1991 Gulf War.

Asked about the Saudis, William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, said: "I believe we will have all the support that is necessary to carry out whatever plans need to be carried out."

As the talks continued, other countries joined the US-British preparations for military action. Australia and Canada both said they were prepared to send troops.

Australia is to send 250 troops to the region, including about 100 SAS soldiers who are specialists in covert search and rescue operations. British SAS troops are already understood to be in the region for similar missions to prepare for the possibility of allied aircraft being shot down.

Canada said it would supply a frigate, two Hercules transport aircraft and 400 military personnel. A Canadian frigate, HMCS Toronto, has been ordered to steam from the Mediterranean and should arrive in the Gulf within about two weeks.

There were reports that Spain was considering allowing the US to station 30 air refuelling tankers at a southern base. Germany also said it would contribute to the allied action.

Madeline Albright, the US Secretary of State, took the Administration's message to Capitol Hill, again reiterating that Saddam would shoulder sole responsibility for any military action taken by the US, Britain and the two Commonwealth countries.



Madeline Albright addressing the US Senate yesterday

Exiled opposition groups say military strike would strengthen dictator

BY MICHAEL BIVON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE main Iraqi opposition group said yesterday that a military strike would only leave President Saddam Hussein stronger and more vengeful. Instead, the West should back policies that would lead to his overthrow.

The London-based Iraqi National Congress, an umbrella grouping of 19 opposition factions, has warned the

REBELS

British and American Governments that airstrikes would achieve nothing on their own. "What is the overall strategy? The war aims are hazy and fuzzy," Ahmed Chalabi, president of the group's executive council, said. "Saddam will survive, the UN inspectors will be thrown out and thousands of Iraqis will be killed. What is the West plan-

ning to do after that?" Only military action supporting a revolution inside Iraq would work.

The allies had to insist on a no-drive zone in northern and southern Iraq, as well as a no-fly zone. Unable thus to control huge areas of the country, Saddam would swiftly face rebellion from the army units in these areas. They would

then be joined by the Republican Guard. Dr Chalabi also called on the West to declare Saddam a war criminal, withdraw recognition of his Government and accept his group as a government-in-exile, giving it access to frozen Iraqi assets. This would focus the opposition to Saddam. Army units would quickly defect if they knew that Saddam was

not able to send troops or planes into rebellious areas. Otherwise all the generals plotting rebellion would be killed, as they had been in the past.

The congress has suffered from squabbling, especially between the two main Kurdish groups, headed by Massoud Barzani and Jalal Talabani. Dr Chalabi admitted differences and weaknesses, but said that all factions accepted democracy, pluralism and free elections. He said the congress was a credible opposition: it had fighting experience and was based in Sulaimaniya in the north for four years until 1996. In 1995 it had been ready to start an uprising with defecting army units, but was told by the

Americans: "You're on your own." He accused Washington of still preferring Saddam to a vacuum in Iraq because Americans feared Iranian influence in the south.

He noted bitterly that the West had refused to back any uprising. Iraqis felt betrayed by the West's failure to help in 1991 at the end of the Gulf War and again in 1995.

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PLO bans violent pro-Iraq marches

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Palestine Liberation Organisation yesterday banned violent pro-Iraqi demonstrations in the self-rule areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip after warnings by Israel that the increasing solidarity protests were making a nonsense of the peace process.

The ban, in contrast to open PLO support for President Saddam Hussein in the 1991 Gulf War, was imposed after a spate of marches led to clashes with Israeli troops and repeated flag-burnings.

"On Saddam, hit Tel Aviv with your missiles and chemicals all the way," chanted thousands of Palestinian demonstrators in one march

ISRAEL

in the West Bank town of Jenin. Earlier, 15 people, including three journalists, were wounded when Palestinians protested in Bethlehem.

"We have issued orders banning all demonstrations and marches which result in violent acts and disturbances such as burning flags," said Major-General Ghazi al-Jabali, the PLO's police chief in the West Bank and Gaza.

Panic inside Israel about alleged military unpreparedness for any Iraqi chemical or biological attack has claimed its first victim. Malcha Shalom, 35, a pregnant mother of seven, fell to her death from a balcony while trying to get into her old flat to find gas masks which had been left behind after the 1991 war.

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Diana's public airing of 'marital woes' shocked Jackie Onassis

A BOOK about to be published in the United States claims Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, once an admirer of Diana, Princess of Wales, grew to dislike her. According to *Jackie After Jack: Portrait of a Lady* by Christopher Andersen, "Jackie's opinion of Princess Diana underwent a gradual change from admiration to sympathy to disapproval", caused largely by the "spectacle of the Princess disembowelling herself in public" over the breakdown of her marriage to the Prince of Wales.

The book quotes Jamie Auchincloss, the half-brother of Mrs

Admiration waned as Princess bared her soul to media, writes Tunku Varadarajan

Onassis, as saying: "Jackie admired Diana at first. She saw something of her younger self in the Princess. Both women were very young when they were thrust centre stage and, despite difficult marriages, grew into their roles."

"But Jackie was much brighter than Diana — more intellectual, certainly better educated."

It was this intelligence, allied to her connections, that helped Mrs

Onassis secure editing jobs at the publishers Viking and Doubleday. She was promoted to senior editor at Doubleday in 1982 and promptly set to work trying to persuade the Princess to participate in a possible book project. However, according to the book Mrs Onassis's overtures were rebuffed by Buckingham Palace.

In fact, the author says that he doubts whether Mrs Onassis's

correspondence regarding a book was ever passed on to the Princess by her Palace handlers.

But the elder woman's affection for the younger was still undimmed. The author quotes an unnamed colleague of Mrs Onassis from the publishing world: "Early on, Jackie respected Diana for rising to the occasion after her marriage."

"She thought Di was beautiful, elegant, charming, very stylish, and a wonderful mother. Diana and Jackie also shared the problem of having to cope with powerful, phandering husbands. In their

approach to this, they differed greatly."

It was this difference in "approach", in fact, that led to Mrs Onassis's disillusionment with the Princess. The author writes: "Diana's dissatisfaction had been written on her face for years before she took the unprecedented action of airing her marital woes in the press. In contrast, Jackie felt her marriage to Jack was sacrosanct. She wore a mask."

Oleg Cassini, an old friend of the Kennedys, is quoted as saying that Mrs Onassis's "natural dignity" prevented her from taking her

problems outside the family. Mr Cassini said: "She was a woman of great pride. If she and Jack had had a fight ten minutes before, she never would have shown it." The book cites Mr Cassini as saying that Mrs Onassis was "turned off by the spectacle of Diana disembowelling herself in public."

Mrs Kennedy would never have done that, Jackie was of sterner stuff made."

The book also reveals that, despite her glittering social status, Mrs Onassis was a disaster as a commissioning editor. She tried and failed to sign up Greta Garbo,

Elizabeth Taylor, Brigitte Bardot, Katharine Hepburn, Bette Davis, Barbara Walters, the musician Prince, Ted Turner, Rudolph Nureyev, and even her old friend Frank Sinatra.

Apparently, she also tried to sign up Camilla Parker Bowles, offering her \$2 million to write her memoirs for Doubleday. But like so many others, she too said no.

□ *Jackie After Jack: Portrait of a Lady*, by Christopher Andersen, William Morrow, New York.

Death of a Princess, pages 14 and 15

Prince views hidden kingdom



BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales's visit has put the eccentric mountain state of Bhutan, last of the Himalayan Buddhist kingdoms, on the map. He is among a choice few allowed to cast an eye over its culture, a centuries-old relic preserved by official decree.

Tucked in the mountains between India and Tibet, the Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon pursues a policy of isolation to save it from the environmental and cultural destruction visited on the rest of the region by tourists and millions of migrating, land-hungry Nepalese.

King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, 43, is as hated by Nepalese as he is revered by most Drukpas, the dominant ethnic group of Bhutan, who are expected to live by a code of conduct that governs almost every aspect of daily life — from how to dress in public to the proper form of everyday greeting. Their language, Dzongkha, has been declared the only official language.

Television is banned: when wealthy members of the tiny aristocracy erected satellite dishes the King banned them as well. Political parties are outlawed, although parliament is elected and has even been known to question the King, but very gently so. The



The Prince of Wales meets King Wangchuck of Bhutan in Thimphu on the second of his four days in the isolated Buddhist kingdom

one newspaper, *Kuensel*, is government-controlled and reminds people of the peril of the Nepalese masses who supposedly want to plunder the virgin forests and plough the land. The rivers abound with fish and there is almost no industry.

It is a country of yak herders, 300-year-old monastic fortresses, orange orchards and fields of cardamom. There is polygamy and polyandry: several brothers might take the same wife to save splitting a farm. The King has four

wives, sisters who live in separate homes, which he visits in rotation from his log house in the hills. Each wife has produced two children. "Even though I have four wives, I have a happy home life," he once told me.

He has threatened to abdicate if he fails to solve the "southern problem" — the occupation of the fertile south by ethnic Nepalese, many of whom have been there for generations. Parliament ordered the expulsion of all Nepalese who were unable to prove

they had lived in the country before 1958, leading to accusations of ethnic cleansing. About 100,000 Nepalese have been forced out, many to UN refugee camps in Nepal. Some have helped to organise acts of violence inside Bhutan, including the destruction of bridges, pylons and buildings.

Those allowed to stay are expected to embrace the culture of the Drukpas, who are of Tibetan descent. "We are trying to bring our people of southern Bhutan into the mainstream, politically, socially and economically," the King said. "Our culture and traditions provide us with a unique identity to help us to protect our sovereignty. That is why we give so much attention to them. Otherwise we will not survive."

King Wangchuck, who succeeded his father in 1972, was educated at Summerfield School in Sussex and Heather Down at Ascot, where he knew Prince Andrew. He is unstoppably garrulous: the Prince of Wales probably found it hard to get a word in.

During his visit, the Prince attended a reception by some 50 members of the British community working in Thimphu, officials said. Speaking to the members at the reception, the Prince of Wales praised Bhutan's efforts to keep its ancient traditions intact.

The officials quoted the Prince as saying: "Bhutan is one of the few countries left in the world which is incorporating tradition and culture into modern life. This country is a great example of sustainability."

WORLD IN BRIEF

IMF tells Mugabe to respect law

Harare: Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, has written to President Mugabe of Zimbabwe insisting that his Government make a public commitment that it will adhere to the law and the Constitution in implementing his controversial plan to seize 1,480 white-owned farms (Jan Raath writes).

Western diplomatic sources said yesterday that M Camdessus had asked Mr Mugabe to ensure that a senior government official issues a "public and official statement" by next month, when the IMF governors consider Zimbabwe's application for a \$174 million (£108 million) loan urgently needed to help to stave off economic collapse.

Panic spreads in Freetown

Freetown: Thousands of civilians fled into the centre of Freetown after fierce battles erupted between the local army and West African peacekeepers on the outskirts of the Sierra Leone capital. Roads out of Freetown were cut off by Nigerian-led peacekeepers whose officers confirmed that an offensive had begun to evict the military junta led by Major Johnny Paul Koroma which toppled the elected Government last May. Nigeria accused fighters loyal to President Taylor of Liberia of backing Major Koroma. (Reuters)

China deports dissident

Beijing: China has deported the US-based dissident Wang Bingzhang, right, who slipped back into the country two weeks ago from Macau to form an opposition party. Three of four dissidents held on suspicion of joining his effort were also freed. Mr Wang's brother and officials at the US Embassy confirmed he had arrived in Los Angeles from Shanghai. He was on a list of activists refused entry into China. (AFP)



Tribal rebels pledge peace

Kagrachhari, Bangladesh: Caged pigeons were liberated and white roses exchanged in a gesture of peace yesterday as hundreds of Shanti Bahini rebels turned in their weapons, pledging to end a 20-year separatist campaign in Bangladesh's southeast Chittagong Hill Tracts (Ahmed Fazl writes).

The surrender of arms came after a peace treaty between Government and rebels last December, which granted regional autonomy to the 500,000 indigenous tribal people.

Engine failure caused crash

Moscow: The crash of a giant military cargo aircraft, left, that killed dozens of people in Siberia last December was caused by engine failure linked to a faulty design, Anatoli Kornukov, Russia's Air Force commander, said yesterday. Three of the four engines on the Antonov 124 shut down seconds after it took off from an airport near Irkutsk. The aircraft crashed into a residential area, killing at least 69 people. (AP)

Schindler widow wins cash

Buenos Aires: The widow of Oskar Schindler, the playboy German industrialist who rescued 1,000 Jews from the Holocaust, has been granted a \$600 monthly pension by the Argentine Government. Emilie Schindler, 90, had complained of poverty after living in the country in anonymity for 50 years before Steven Spielberg filmed her husband's story in *Schindler's List*. (Reuters)



President Clinton with his chocolate labrador pet

Buddy breeder cashes in on puppy love

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE publicity lavished on Buddy since he entered the White House has found its most commercial expression as the breeder of President Clinton's chocolate labrador attempts to auction the dog's unborn siblings to the highest bidder.

Linda Renfro, owner of Wild Goose Kennels in Maryland, has joined forces with Brad Larkin, an Internet entrepreneur who runs the Buddy website, to sell a litter of puppies bred from the famous

labrador's parents, Sadie and Cocoa. "Recognising that you will be getting a puppy who is a full-blooded sibling to one of the most famous dogs in the world, how much are you willing to pay for your puppy?" the Internet site asks prospective buyers.

Two of the puppies, expected next month, have already been promised and, as the size of the litter remains unknown, the fine print offers no guarantee that applicants will be successful. "Nor can we guarantee gender or colour of the pups," says the kennel where Buddy was born last

August. "Puppies from Sadie and Cocoa could be black, chocolate, brown or yellow."

Applicants are asked to supply details of credit history and Mr Larkin will even check for criminal records.

An original minimum bid of \$1,000 (£613), double the market price for a pedigree labrador, has since been removed amid criticism from other breeders who claim the kennel is trying to exploit Buddy's fame.

"I feel like a dog is worth whatever the market will bear," said Mr Larkin, whose services were hired by Ms

Renfro as a means of finding desirable homes for the new brood.

While some labrador breeders claimed yesterday that it was inhumane to breed a dog more than once a year, Ms Renfro said Sadie, declared by a vet to be fit enough to give birth again, is unlikely to have further litters.

"I'm trying to weed out people who want a dog to breed it to death because it's related to Buddy," she said. "Money is not the object. Nothing would suit me better than if a sick child could get one of these puppies."

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Black sheep plays the white knight



As Britain mobilises RAF Tornados and Royal Navy carriers in the Gulf, Valerie Grove finds Defence Minister George Robertson thoughtful and reassuring



Standing firm: George Robertson's lifelong commitment to "making the world safe", ranges from youthful CND activist to Defence Minister controlling Britain's response to Iraq

At the age of 15, a pupil at Dunoon Grammar, George Robertson stood on the pier at Holy Loch, the grim Polaris missile base, shouting CND slogans. At 51 he is Secretary of State for Defence, deploying combat-ready British troops for imminent strikes against Iraq.

Rover carrying a mine disposal team and explosives hit him head-on on Drumochter Pass. "If I hadn't worn my seatbelt I'd have been dead. Lucky? I don't think lucky is a sufficiently expressive phrase. It was miraculous."

'We want diplomacy to work. But if it doesn't, we're ready'

little attention until trouble starts. But since the Cold War ended they've never been busier: Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Angola, Zaire, the Gulf. They were the backbone of the operation against indicted war criminals in Bosnia, using the techniques learnt in Northern Ireland," he says.

Munich for the Wehrkunde security conference. Cohen once remarked to him that he felt "squeezed". "He said: 'One minute people say the Americans are too powerful, but when we say 'well, we'll take some of our troops home' they say, 'wait a minute, we do want the American presence to continue'. I told him the old Scottish political expression 'if you can't ride two horses, why are you in this circus?'

much more effective than politicians, diplomats or journalists." The role of defence attaché should not be a retirement posting but a military task "to set about the disarmament of the mind". He is all for getting British and Iraqi troops together, and cites a Glaswegian officer he met with the United Nations force on the Kuwait-Iraq border. He'd been captured by the Iraqis, and yet had gone back for the third time "because he's an Arabic speaker and likes the Iraqi people".

As Robin Cook says, when we sit in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, in a room the size of Earl's Court - Kohl, Chirac, Blair, Shevardnadze, the Slovaks, the Armenians, the Azeris all in alphabetical order, so we sit with the US on one side and the Ukraine on the other - "It's better to send middle-aged men abroad to bore each other than send young men abroad to kill each other."

World War rhetoric, he maintains the Russians are as angry with Saddam as we are, "but they have a slightly different view of how you actually get him to comply". When Robertson was in the Gulf in September, he stood in 44C heat on the Kuwait-Iraq border and pondered on Saddam's audacious arrival with 100,000 troops, seven years ago, into a peaceful neighbouring country. "This man has now got a huge capability of chemical weapons, and uses them against his own people. What happens to them if we back off?"

He makes a virtue of the paradox: the underlying "commitment to make the world safer" is lifelong. CND politicised him, but by the time he had graduated he had adopted a more realistic view of "a world that often teeters on the edge of self-destruction". It was his anti-familialism that, under old Labour, lost him the job of opposition defence spokesman. In his office, he points out that we sit on Winston Churchill's green leather furniture, repatriated by Michael Heseltine from the old War Office. It lends a consciousness of the recent past: "We've learnt from history that appeasing dictators is not a productive or safe way of dealing with them. Saddam's threat is real, and so is ours, if he doesn't comply. We mean business."

He didn't like my describing the mood of the moment as belligerent. That assumed aggression. He offered "firm" and "determined", pursing his tiny mouth. "We will only use force when all else fails, and in extremis."

Why the government silence on the Salman Rushdie affair? + please, no parliamentary crèche + cellulite cream confessions

Rope in our feelings

IF PEOPLE who are opposed to the death penalty could have seen our house over the past two years and the pain and misery David Frost has caused, if they could understand the half of it, the tenth of it, they might change their minds about the death penalty.

such as Louise Smith's family, for desperately wanting retribution? I am no Christian, with a Christian's duty to turn the other cheek, to forgive rather than to punish; and I don't question - even though I know it must be checked - the instinct for vengeance.

Unhappy anniversary

AND talking of death penalties and the civilised society, Saturday marks the ninth anniversary of the fatwa decreed by Iran on Salman Rushdie. It is also more than nine months since the Labour Government - the good guys, remember? - was elected. What has it done to denounce the fatwa, to protect the rights of its citizen, Salman Rushdie, and to right this awful, indefensible - politically as much as morally - wrong? Nada.

Nigella Lawson



take place. But, hey, it's only one person - and just count those votes. I don't want to sound self-congratulatory, preening myself for moral superiority. I really think that those of us of the Bien Pensant Tendency have to question ourself deeply and honestly. Do we think Robert Smith might have a point? Are we backing the wrong horse on this one?

Democratically speaking, a case could be made for the death penalty, simply because such alarmingly huge numbers of people seem to be in favour of it. But that's the crucial problem of democracy: the majority view isn't necessarily the right one. Sorry to say it, but it's true, and we all, democrats every one, know it. But democracy has another task, to make sure the citizens are done well by, to protect their interests and to make a civilised society in which they can live and flourish.

Cream or gym.

IT'S all very well a Which? report telling us cellulite creams are useless. We know they are; that's not why we buy them. I have a weakness for the expensive cosmetic counter (although the face rather than the thigh zone is more the focus of my wasted purchases) but it has never occurred to me to believe all the sales jargon and pseudo-medical guff. I enjoy it, but I don't fall for it. I pay money because the actual payment gives me pleasure: the idiotic, almost illicit, expense is part of the whole deal. But with cellulite creams there is another lure. We all know what makes legs look better: exercise. But faced with that or spending money in the pretence that it will work, there's no contest. If it's a choice between an hour at the gym or a day's wages on a pot of cream, the cream suddenly looks like a most attractive bargain.

No, no to nannying MPs

NOW that quite a few of the recent intake of female MPs have either given birth or are pregnant, and several more are thought to be keeping back such announcements, word has it that a big move is about to be made to demand a crèche in Parliament. On no account should such a crèche be set up. I cannot say this forcibly enough. We don't want every woman MP to have her childcare problems cheaply and easily sorted or we will never have any considerations made for our difficulties, financial and otherwise. I do not apologise for this piece of middle-class special pleading: if we ever want to see the light of tax relief on childcare then our MPs will have to go out and find expensive nannies on the open market like the rest of us.

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The Times continues its serialisation of the most searching journalistic investigation yet into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. In the second extract from their new book **Thomas Sancton and Scott MacLeod** tell how Dodi planned to propose

Death of a PRINCESS

On the evening of August 22, Dodi pulled the *Jonikal* into the harbour at Monte Carlo. The couple went ashore and walked together to the boutique of the jeweller Alberto Repposi in the Hermitage hotel near the principality's famous casino. They had previously been to the shop on August 5, looking at some rings, and took a catalogue away with them. Now they seemed to know exactly what they wanted.

Diana, Princess of Wales, had chosen an item from Repposi's new line of engagement rings called "Tell Me Yes! Out!" (Tell Me Yes!) Cost: \$200,000. Customised for the Princess, it was a band of yellow and white gold, with triangles of diamond clusters surrounding a stunning emerald jewel. "We tried to show them other things," says M Repposi, "but they had decided on this ring." It was agreed that M Repposi himself would bring the ring to Paris on August 30.

Some people close to the Princess and Dodi believe that the main reason for their one-day stopover in Paris on Saturday, August 30, was to allow Dodi to pick up the Princess's engagement ring at Repposi's shop in the Place Vendôme. Since the couple had already enjoyed a three-day weekend in Paris the previous month, there would have been little point going back just to have dinner. The Princess was due in London by midday Sunday to see her children, who were coming down from a vacation with their father in Scotland, so the visit to Paris would have lasted less than 24 hours in any case. The fact is that Dodi's only fixed appointment in Paris that Saturday was his 6.30pm meeting with Alberto Repposi.

Not even Mohamed Al Fayed, who now has possession of the Tell Me Yes! ring, knows whether Dodi actually presented the Princess with it that day. Nor is there any evidence that the Princess and Dodi had become formally engaged. That they intended to marry now seems beyond question. But the Princess, friends believe, wanted to inform her children before making the news public. Possibly

she meant to do that on Sunday when she was to meet Wills and Harry in London. For his part, Dodi told the people who were closest to him that he and the Princess had decided to get married. On Friday, August 29, Mohamed Al Fayed phoned the *Jonikal* and spoke to the Princess. They chatted about shopping, as she wanted to pick up some birthday presents for Harry, who was turning 13 on September 15. She didn't mention wedding bells at that time, but Dodi spoke to Mohamed later that day. "We have decided to get married," Moomoo," he said, using the affectionate nickname by which he always called his father. "I'm going to Paris and I am going to buy

stopped talking the whole cruise. They were always laughing, holding hands."

While the couple were lingering over their breakfast, Dodi's cellphone rang. It was Frank Klein in Antibes, returning Dodi's call from the previous night. Dodi had an urgent need to talk to Klein, who was also responsible for overseeing the Windsor villa that Mohamed Al Fayed had leased from the City of Paris since 1986. The elder Fayed had ordered the Duke and Duchess's effects cleared out and auctioned off in order to turn the property over to his family's personal use. Dodi had a plan for the mansion.

"Frank," he said, "where do we stand on the Windsor villa?" Klein informed him that the Windsor artefacts had been removed as of the end of July and were to go on auction at Sotheby's in less than two weeks. The house stood empty.

"Good," said Dodi. "I've spoken to my father about moving in. My friend" — he

'I had never seen Dodi and the Princess as happy as at the moment they were about to leave'

her ring. "Al Fayed was pleased, but reacted cautiously. "Easy, easy," he told Dodi. "Don't rush into anything. I think this is too fast. Make up your mind. Just be sure you are doing the right thing." But Dodi had already begun mapping out his future with his princess. He told his father that he wanted to take the Princess back to the Windsor villa during their Paris stopover. "If I get married, do you think you can give me the house?" Dodi asked. Mohamed replied: "No problem."

Dodi also spoke about marriage to two family employees: his butler René Delorm and the Ritz's president Frank Klein. On the morning of Saturday, August 30, Dodi and the Princess sat on the top deck of the *Jonikal* and admired the sparkling waters of Sardinia's Emerald Coast. The butler René, who had been with the couple on both trips, arrived on deck at 9.30am with breakfast: coffee, croissants and jam, a basket of bananas, apples, grapes, oranges and kiwis. "It was a quiet morning. They were in a good mood," René recalls. "They never

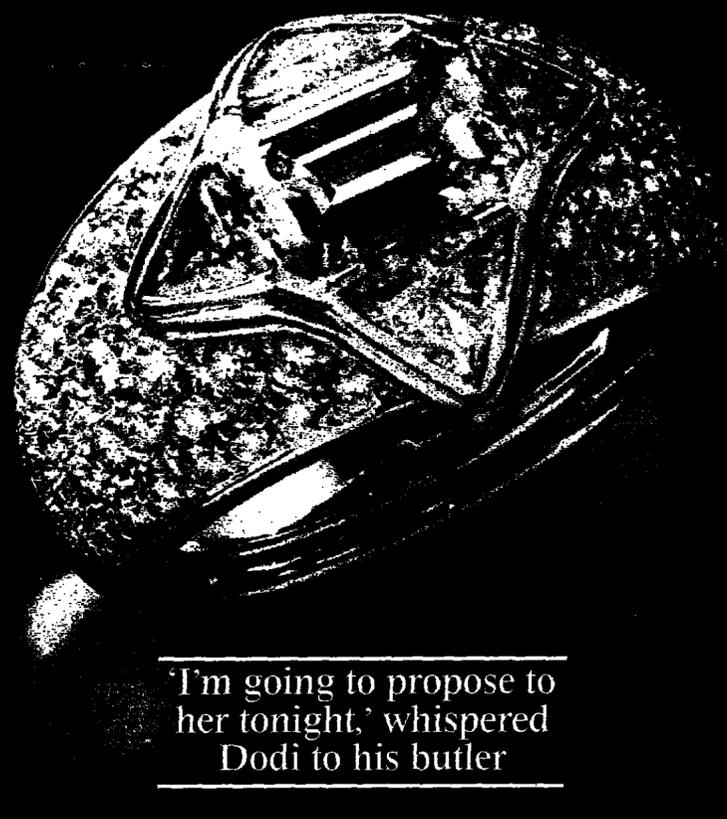
didn't want to mention the Princess's name for fear of electronic eavesdroppers — "doesn't want to stay in England." Klein quickly guessed whom he was talking about. Then Dodi broke some startling news: "We want to move into the villa, Frank, because we are getting married in October or November."

"That's wonderful, Dodi," said Klein. "Really wonderful. I'll be in Paris on Monday and we'll talk about it."

Some time after their arrival in Paris, the Princess went to get her hair done in the salon near the health spa at The Ritz. Dodi took this moment to run an important errand. He had an appointment with M Repposi, who had brought the Tell Me Yes! ring up from Monte Carlo after resizing it and doing the other modifications that Dodi had requested eight days earlier.

A little before 6.30pm, Dodi sent his bodyguard Alexander "Kes" Wingfield and Claude Roulet, of the Ritz management staff, on foot to Repposi's boutique. True to his security fetish, Dodi insisted on being driven to Repposi's in the Mercedes 600, though it was less than 100 yards from the entrance to The Ritz. Trevor

A ring... and champagne on ice



'I'm going to propose to her tonight,' whispered Dodi to his butler

Customised for the Princess, Alberto Repposi's \$200,000 engagement ring came from his Tell Me Yes! line

Rees-Jones accompanied him and waited in the car while Dodi went inside.

Dodi took delivery of the Tell Me Yes! ring, but also examined another that had caught his fancy. He asked M Repposi if he could take both rings to see which one the Princess preferred. The jewels were handed over to M Roulet, with details about the price and payment left to be worked out later between the shop and the Ritz management.

The Princess had returned

from having her hair done when Dodi got back to the room. Shortly afterwards, M Roulet knocked on the door and delivered the rings to Dodi, who took them and disappeared into the next room of the suite. Dodi later returned the second ring to M Roulet. It was thus the Tell Me Yes! ring that Dodi had selected and probably intended to slip on the Princess's finger that night. The ring was later found in his apartment in its unopened box. It now lies in a

safe-deposit vault in a Swiss bank, along with love letters from the Princess to Dodi.

At 8.45pm that evening Dodi called his maternal step-uncle, Hassan Yasseen, who by coincidence was staying at The Ritz that weekend. Mr Yasseen, a Saudi businessman who once served as a press counsellor at the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Washington, and Dodi spoke for five minutes. "He called me and told me that he and the Princess were going to go to dinner,

and would I join them afterwards. And then we got to talking." It was then, Mr Yasseen says, that Dodi dropped the bombshell. "I said, 'The relationship seems to be getting more serious,' and he said, 'Yes, it is.' Then I asked him, 'Are you going to get married?' He said, 'Yes, we are going to get married.'"

Mr Yasseen was overjoyed. "I said, 'We are very happy for you. She is a nice girl. She has tremendous character. I'm glad that you have found love

between you.' — that kind of nice talk."

During that brief conversation, Dodi did not elaborate on specific details, such as the ring, the formal announcement and the timing of the wedding. But he invited Mr Yasseen to join him and the Princess at the restaurant for coffee after their dinner. Mr Yasseen thought he would hear more about the engagement then. But near midnight, when Mr Yasseen went looking for them, a hotel concierge informed him that Dodi had phoned to ask if they could meet for breakfast the next morning instead. "There is too much media," Dodi had told the concierge. Mr Yasseen never spoke to Dodi again.

René Delorm had worked for Dodi for more than six years. During the two Mediterranean cruises with the Princess, Dodi had said nothing to René about his intentions, but as the couple prepared to leave the Rue Arène-Houssaye apartment for dinner, he told him he planned to propose to the Princess when they returned.

While the Princess was preparing herself in the living room, Dodi crept discreetly into the kitchen. "René," he told his butler, "make sure we have champagne on ice." A few moments later, he came back. "René, I'm going to propose to her tonight," he whispered, with a big smile.

Dodi called his father at around midnight from The Ritz. Mohamed Al Fayed recounts, and told him that he and the Princess would soon leave for the apartment. Mr Al Fayed didn't like his plan. "Don't go," he warned. "There's a lot of press out there. Why don't you just stay in the hotel?"

"We can't, Moomoo," said Dodi. "We have all our things back at the apartment, and we have to leave from there in the morning."

"Just be careful," said his father. "Don't step on it. There's no hurry. Wait until you see the atmosphere is perfect, get in your car and go away. Don't hide — it is unnecessary. You have security with you. If they want to shoot you, fine, then at least we know they shot you. But to go out the back, change the driver..."

But Dodi had already made up his mind. During these final moments, he seemed to get more and more excited about his plan. The Princess, worn out from the long and harrowing day, waited passively. The Ritz security video shows the couple standing in the rear hall just minutes before their departure. Dodi has his left arm draped protectively around the Princess. The chauffeur, Henri Paul, is facing them, talking animatedly.

As Kes Wingfield described the moment: "[Dodi] was happy. So was the Princess. They joked and laughed. It might seem ironic but I had never seen Dodi and the Princess as happy as at the moment they were about to leave calmly from the rear of the hotel."

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Born to please

DODI was extravagant to a fault. His propensity to lavish gifts on everyone around — from sides of smoked salmon to a weekend in the Seychelles — seemed to spring from an impulse to please more than to impress. (The Princess had the same quality.)

One night at Trump, Dodi learnt that it was the birthday of the wife of the owner, Johnny Gold. He simply took off the Cartier gold chain he was wearing beneath his Versace shirt and draped it around her neck. "Dodi was more generous than anybody I have ever met," says his former wife Suzanne Gregard. "And it was always with no strings attached. He never expected anything in return."

When they were apart, he had a habit of phoning Diana and telling her about things he had just purchased for her. According to her friend Rosa Monckton, this made Diana angry. "I don't want to be bought, Rosa," she would say.

But on their last cruise of the summer, Dodi was ready to open his heart as well as his wallet. He presented her with something very special: a silver plaque from a London jeweller (E812) inscribed with a poem he had written for her.

During their time together Diana gave Dodi a silver cigar clipper, inscribed "From Diana with love", and a pair of gold cufflinks with the family crest, which were the last gift she had received from her late father. "It would give my father great joy," she said, "to know that they were in safe and special hands."

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'Tell my sister Sarah to look after the children'

Death of a PRINCESS

Mohamed Al Fayed is told of the Princess's dying wish, while Prince Charles and Diana's sisters prepare for her return home

At about 3.30am on Sunday, August 31, Mohamed Al Fayed's Sikorsky SK-76 helicopter landed at Le Bourget airport, ten miles north of Paris, after an 80-minute flight from Omdurman. His chauffeur, Philippe Dourneau, and Dodi's bodyguard, Kes Wingfield, picked him up. Wingfield confirmed Dodi's death, but said that Diana, Princess of Wales, was still alive.

Instead of proceeding directly to the morgue to view Dodi's body, Al Fayed decided to go first to the hospital to see the Princess. Upon arriving at Pitié-Salpêtrière he was met by Sir Michael Jay, the British Ambassador, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the French Interior Minister, and Philippe Massoni, the police chief, who told him that she had just died. Al Fayed was taken to see the body. "I was in shock," he later told associates. "I saw her and I prayed. She looked beautiful, peaceful and serene."

The white sheet pulled up to the Princess's neck obscured her most grievous wounds and the blood had been wiped from her face. But what was not apparent to Al Fayed had been chronicled shortly before by the Paris medical official who performed an external examination on the body. The report showed a 3cm wound on the forehead, a cut over the lip, crushed ribs, a fractured right arm, an 8cm cut on the right thigh, bruises on both hands and feet, and a cut on the right buttock. The body chart did not give details of the internal injuries, however, since the Princess's chest had already been sewn up.

Before leaving the hospital, Al Fayed was approached by a French official he knew. "There is someone who must speak with you," said this official. He introduced Al Fayed to a medical worker who had treated Diana in the tunnel. As Al Fayed recalls the story, this person told him that the Princess had drifted in and out of consciousness and that at one point she had spoken. What she had reportedly said,

Al Fayed was told, was: "Tell my sister Sarah to look after my children." Al Fayed received Lady Sarah McCorquodale in his London office the following Thursday and repeated to her the Princess's alleged last words, although a spokesman for the hospital later described the story of the Princess's last words as "completely false" and "an invention". Al Fayed also gave Lady Sarah a silver plaque, which Dodi had had inscribed with a love poem, and which a maid had found under the Princess's pillow at Dodi's Paris apartment. Al Fayed requested that it be placed in Diana's coffin.

By 7.30, the French President had decided to send his wife, Bernadette Chirac, to the hospital immediately to pay respects on his behalf. That afternoon, Chirac would be at the hospital to greet the Princess of Wales and the Princess's two sisters, when they came to collect the body. Madame Chirac arrived at the hospital at 8.45, followed by Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, at 9.15.

By then the Princess had been brought up from the operating room, where she died to a room on the first-floor intensive care corridor where French and British officials had set up a crisis centre. Nurses had cleaned the body and covered her with a sheet up to the shoulders. The Princess's personal valet, Paul Burrell, 39, whom she always called "my rock", arrived at about 1pm to help to prepare her for her final voyage. He brought a suitcase containing make-up and a long black dress. Working with hospital staff and French undertakers, he dressed her, arranged her hair and applied colour to a face that had turned ashen.

Plainclothes policemen mounted a permanent guard

outside the door. Inside, the hospital's Roman Catholic chaplain, Father Yves Clochard-Bossuet, sat by the Princess's bed and quietly prayed for her soul. Wakened in his hospital apartment at 3am, the priest had been ushered into the dead Princess's room shortly after the body had been brought upstairs. When Madame Chirac arrived at the hospital, she joined him in prayer at the bedside. The priest later ceded his place to the Rev Martin Draper of St George's Anglican Church in Paris.

With Prince Charles and the Princess's two sisters expected in the afternoon, French and British officials held a 2pm planning session in their crisis centre, 15 yards away from where the Princess lay. The meeting included the French Government protocol chief, Bernard Grasset; a British protocol officer, the British Embassy press attaché, Timothy Livesey; the Elysée spokesman, Jérôme Reynard; the Elysée press coordinator, Evelyne Richard; Prince Chief Massoni; Dr Riou, Professor Alain Pavie and four

employees of the Paris undertakers that had provided the casket and hearse, their suitcases containing the make-up and other accessories used to prepare the body. The discussion centred on protocol. Who would stand next to whom? Where would Chirac greet Prince Charles? How would the cortege leave the hospital? But the conversation was quickly diverted to such questions as "What state is the Princess in? How is she dressed? Is her face damaged? Does Prince Charles want to see the coffin open or closed?"

In fact, the Princess was not yet in the coffin. She had been made up, coiffed and dressed, and lay on a hospital bed. The windows had been shuttered and the curtains drawn to block the prying cameras of journalists, some of whom had rented balcony space across the street from the hospital. The room was lit by a small wall lamp. "Her face was not at all damaged, she looked impeccable," says an official who saw the Princess at about 3pm. "It was a bizarre moment. I was filled with an infinite sadness before this beautiful woman, adulated around the world, who lay dead in this humble hospital room." Before the royal party

arrived, the undertakers lifted the Princess into her coffin. According to Prince Charles's wishes, the lid was left open.

There had been much debate about whether the hearse should leave from the main entrance, where a huge crowd now stood vigil behind police barricades, or from a rear exit. Prince Charles's instructions were unambiguous: "Don't hide the departure of the coffin. Let it be filmed inside and outside the hospital. Let it be seen by the people."

At 5pm, a BAe 146 of the Royal Flight touched down at the Villacoublay military airfield, about 20 miles southwest of Paris, where it was met by Sir Michael Jay. When the royal party arrived at the hospital with a French police motorcycle escort at 5.40pm, President and Madame Chirac were waiting at the entrance with a guard of honour of France's ceremonial Gardes Républicaines, resplendent in their dark blue uniforms with red and gold trim.

Prince Charles emerged from the Ambassador's silver-grey Jaguar with a rather daily smile frozen on his face. He greeted the Chiracs in his flawless, but heavily accented, French: "Monsieur le Président, Madame Chirac, merci d'être là." The presidential couple then accompanied him and the Princess's two sisters, Lady Jane Fellowes and Lady Sarah, to the intensive care unit. While the Chiracs waited in the corridor, the Prince and his former sisters-in-law entered the room.

The Princess was in the coffin with her hands folded over her black evening dress. Mr Draper said prayers with them, then left the room. Prince Charles and the sisters remained several minutes. Though it had not been planned by the protocol chiefs, Prince Charles asked to remain alone with the body for a moment.

When the Prince came out he had obviously been crying. He quickly recovered his aplomb and stepped towards Professor Riou and Professor Pavie to thank them for their efforts. His first words were "Mes félicitations! (Congratulations)" A rather incongruous remark in the circumstances but an understandable lapse for a man in shock. Chirac, who had viewed the body with his wife shortly before the Prince of Wales's arrival, was not moved. "The President looked devastated," says an Elysée aide.

Following the script worked out by the two protocol officials, Mr Draper led the way



A medical worker allegedly said that the Princess had drifted in and out of consciousness and that at one point she had spoken

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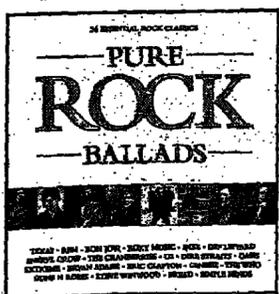
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حزبنا من اليمين

Mosley wasn't just a fornicator: he was a Fascist

Robert Skidelsky on how TV drama whitewashes a would-be dictator into a gentle repentant sinner

Oswald Mosley, the subject of the four-part Channel 4 drama starting tomorrow, was for a few years the wonder boy of British politics. He was elected to Parliament in 1918 at the age of 22 — the "baby" of the House, but already a war veteran. He started as a Conservative, was briefly an Independent, and in 1926 won Smethwick for Labour.

In 1929 he was appointed Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in Ramsay MacDonald's second Labour Government, with special responsibility for unemployment. Less than a year later, he resigned after the Government turned down his British "New Deal". His resignation speech in May 1930 was one of the finest parliamentary performances of this century. Then he snuffed. He formed the New Party in 1931 and the British Union of Fascists a year later. After that it was downhill all the way — violence, attacking the Jews, internment in 1940.

Or was it? Failure can be the stuff of legend. Mosley lived until 1980. When I got to know him late in life, he still had the aura of a major political personality. At his elegant house in Paris, he was hard at work reordering systems of government and economics, the affairs of countries, even continents. I realised then that he was one of the last of the rationalists, in the sense that he really believed the world's problems would yield to rational analysis and treatment. I began to understand the source of the totalitarian temptation. If the answers are known, or knowable, political freedom can come to be seen as an obstacle to progress. The task of the political leader is to create space for the expert. If a few recalcitrant heads have to be broken on the way, that is a cheap entrance ticket to a new civilisation of peace and plenty.

I wrote my biography of Oswald Mosley partly to understand how an English aristocrat, born near the turn of the century, could have acquired this set of convictions, and acted recklessly on them. I traced them to the First World War. I saw Mosley as an extreme example of a generational reaction to that conflict. All his subsequent public actions had reference to it. It provided him with his imagery, his motives, his causes, his enemies.

Nearly ten years after my biography was published, in 1975, Nicholas Mosley produced a two-volume life of his father. This, too, was an attempt to understand Oswald Mosley, in particular to find a way of talking about him which reconciled filial love with a profound distaste for his politics. His solution was to portray his father as a hedonist, for whom politics was a series of dramatic gestures

— an interpretation first suggested by the historian A.J.P. Taylor. The point of this interpretation was to suggest that Oswald Mosley was not ultimately a serious revolutionary. The crucial piece of evidence for Nicholas Mosley was that in 1930 his father called off a march in East London (the "battle of Cable Street") so he could keep his appointment to get married to Diana Mitford in Berlin. This seemed to his son to be getting priorities right. Even the choice of venue had a certain insouciance about it.

The Channel 4 series is based on Nicholas Mosley's book. Scripted by Gran and Marks, it makes a riveting and intelligent TV drama — the most intelligent treatment of a political and personal life that we are likely to get on television. But at the same time we feel (or I feel) that we are

would perhaps be recognised by Bill Clinton, Mosley remained faithful to Cimmie, but not even Jonathan Caine's soulful eyes can make his efforts at contrition convincing. "So," as he curiously intones throughout the film, Mosley is set up for a fall as career and marriage disintegrate together.

But the fall does not really happen. Instead we are led into the last act of a morality play, in which the main themes are remorse and redemption. Under the hammer blows which Oswald Mosley suffers, there is a slow rebirth of decency. This aspect of the story seems to me to owe more to Gran and Marks than to Nicholas Mosley. The latter has his father balancing on a tightrope, trying to have his Fascist cake and eat it, till his arrest in 1940. The film, however, suggests his increasing moral discomfort with what he was doing, the growth of self-knowledge.

The guilt starts with the death of Cimmie in 1933 from peritonitis, but also, it is strongly hinted, of a broken heart. Mosley has nightmares in which he calls out "Cim, Cim". There is a struggle of conscience over the shift to anti-Semitism — the first sign of conscience in the film. The most powerful image of all is his tormented look when he sees the blood-spilt evidence of Nazi Jew-baiting on a Berlin pavement. This is the film's defining moment, the dawn of Mosley's realisation that words have consequences. We are prepared for the gentler Mosley of the final moments who, on his arrest, is friendly and considerate to his black cellmate.

Gran and Marks have added another myth to the Mosley legend: that of the repentant sinner. But continue to what would have been episode 5, and you have Mosley in Notting Hill Gate after the war, stirring it up, this time against blacks. He may have been a better man after 1945, but he was not a better politician. The political cannot be reduced to the personal: it shapes the personal as well. The real Holocaust for Oswald Mosley, as for many of his generation, was that of the First World War. He had no imaginative contact with any other. He hated the people who produced it, and their successors. In his last months he was still churning out his regular Broadsheets, some wise, some foolish, all harking back to the Vision Splendid with which his career had started. He was not asking for forgiveness. It was through striving. Is this something which can now be understood?

Lord Skidelsky is Professor of Political Economy at Warwick University. The third edition of his Oswald Mosley was published as a Paperback in 1991.



Oswald Mosley: totalitarian temptation



MORE TARGETS FOR A BUCKET OF COLD WATER...

Peers, press and humbug

'The Independent' has hijacked the House of Lords for a commercial ploy

In May last year, to be a Labour MP was very Heaven. Now comes the prick of conscience. The House of Lords has thrown down a direct challenge to the Government and the Government requires that its MPs in the Commons resist it. The peers are unhappy about the ban on beef-on-the-bone; instead, they want a ban on predatory pricing by newspapers.

The Lords does not have the power to overrule government. All the peers can do is ask the House of Commons to reconsider a law and do the overruling itself. In this case, most Labour MPs must privately be inclined to join the peers in a double stance worthy of Hogarth or Cobbett. The peers are defending the right to the roast beef of Old England, and seeking protection for the radical press. Neither proposal is inherently eccentric.

In the case of beef-on-the-bone, the Government has lost the argument in the past three months. Its own inspectors have declared the beef ban unenforceable. The public has been enraged. The beef industry has been kicked in the ribs when already down. And the point of the ban, to win diplomatic Brownie points in Brussels, has been shown up for a sham. There is no appreciable risk in eating beef-on-the-bone. The ban should end and MPs should do the necessary.

The predatory pricing amendment to the Government's Competition Bill is more arcane, but also has radical credentials. Monday's debate may have been crude trolling for the Mirror Group (owner of *The Independent*), and against News International (owner of *The Times*), but the Bill itself (unlike the Lords' amendment) raises questions of principle for all businesses with which I have some sympathy. Rules against predatory pricing belong to any competition policy. It is strictly controlled in America. It would be prima facie evidence of monopolistic or unfair trading even under Britain's more lax Competition regime.

Government rebels in the Lords argue that there is something peculiarly fragile in a newspaper market, which demands more attention than it is getting in the Cabinet's new competition Bill. Only paranoid politicians hold that newspaper proprietors deliver votes at elections. But the press is influential in most areas of public life. Newspapers take the agenda of politics and tear it apart. They determine the art of the pos-

sible. They offer outlets for unconventional views and, at their best, test conventional ones to destruction. They make and break reputations.

Press diversity is thus as vital to the democratic process as party diversity. American politics is debilitated by the paucity of competition between serious newspapers. Britain may traditionally have "the worst and the best" newspapers in the world, but above all it has many. Debate is more varied in consequence. This is due in part to the background presence, at moments of crisis, of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, and in part to the bizarre workings of the British newspaper market.

When I was member of the commission's newspaper panel in the 1980s, a 30 per cent market share was considered the limit of unregulated market activity. Above that point, government regulation "kicked in" to protect diversity. Only if a newspaper seemed at risk of imminent closure would a purchase be allowed that gave another newspaper a dominant market position. The trouble was that imminent closure rarely threatened. The industry was awash with cross-subsidy. Every group sheltered a loss-maker or two.

Subsidies tumbled into Fleet Street from home and abroad. Queues of purchasers would form outside any paper in trouble: *The Times*, *The Observer*, *The Daily Mirror*, *The Daily Express*, the *Evening Standard*. Men who had spent lifetimes making fortunes elsewhere seemed content to lose them on newspapers, especially since they came with nobility attached. "We have no party, creed or bias," sang the staff on Julius Elias's loss-making *Daily Herald*, "we want a peerage for Elias." All glamorous products enjoy cross-subsidies: films, opera houses, art galleries, racehorses, mistresses. Some cross-subsidies are public, some private. All are predatory.

The press subsidies could be staggering. Lord Thomson poured what he promised would be "unlimited"

money into *The Times* after 1966. He spent £70 million of his personal fortune on the paper, which went on "predatory" price cuts and advertising discounts. The articles of association of the Scott Trust specifically laid down that the *Manchester Evening News* subsidise *The Times* chief rival, *The Guardian*. *The Daily Telegraph* subsidised *The Sunday Telegraph*. When its rival, *The Observer*, was acquired and subsidised by the Atlantic Richfield Oil Company, that company's boss, Robert Anderson, was feted at Downing Street. Rupert Murdoch was only allowed to acquire *The Sunday Times* in 1981 on condition that it cross-subsidise *The Times*. Subsidy in those days was seen as benign, indeed philanthropic, not predatory.

These antics were all conspiracies in restraint of trade. Many were certainly "bought" peerages. Unions demanded huge payments that kept costs high and competition at bay. Newspaper collusion on cover prices would have been illegal in America. The present price war is a direct result of News International's move to Wapping in 1986 (invited by the Labour Tower Hamlets council). Costs plummeted as one newspaper after another left Fleet Street and renegotiated their union agreements. New newspapers leapt into life. High cover prices ensured that the industry enjoyed a period of high profits. They could not last. The market was too competitive. Price-cutting first began in advertising rates, then in special offers. In 1993 the cover-price dam burst. Readers at last received their dividend on the newspaper revolution. Investment flowed into lower prices.

Economic theory holds that predatory pricing makes sense to a company only in one of two circumstances: if lower prices so stimulate demand that extra eventual revenue more than makes up for the loss, or if one player goes to the wall and the survivors take his share. The former does not merit outside regulation. The latter would do so, certainly in

the context of national newspapers. Yet *The Independent* is not going to the wall. It is merely doing what most quality papers have done for half a century, which is lose money for its owners. Even if *The Independent* did close, it is unlikely that *The Times* would rise above the critical 30 per cent. The only paper that already has more than a third of this market is *The Daily Telegraph*, with 38 per cent. Labour peers do not worry about the *Telegraph*.

Having been at the sharp end of *The Independent's* commercial practices in the early 1990s, I take its whingeing with a pinch of salt. *The Times* fought on quality alone, sowing the seeds for *The Independent's* present plight. (The then Editor, Andreas Whitman Smith, accused us of predatory recruitment.) Now war is joined on price as well. The outcome has been an expansion in the overall market of 14 per cent. Just as *The Times* of old carried its losses cheerfully into the arms of the Astors, the Thomsons and now Mr Murdoch, so *The Independent* takes them to *The Mirror*. Beggars cannot always be choosers.

None of this argues against tough competition rules. The Lords claims that there is a loophole in the new Bill, allowing excessive scope for big companies to cross-subsidise price cuts in particular markets. There may be a case for closing that loophole. The danger for serious newspapers is that cross-subsidy remains their biggest lifeline to security. Besides, unfair trading practices that reduce freedom of choice are the job of the Office of Fair Trading. Its boss, John Bridgeman, is free to intervene. He sits waiting. He has investigated *The Times* twice, in 1993 and 1994, and found no fault. Let him come again.

I would hate to see *The Independent* or any other good newspaper close. If *The Times* was once intolerably stuffy, *The Independent* is intolerably smug. But every journal pays its tribute to the shrine of democracy. I rather suspect *The Independent* has hijacked the House of Lords for another of its commercial ploys. As if losses in the field of battle, it retreats to the thickets of the hereditary chamber. That is surely beneath its dignity. *The Independent* has already pulled off the oldest Fleet Street trick. It has made itself a smart thing to own. It should find another sugar daddy, lie back and enjoy it.

Simon Jenkins

THE TIMES

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THE TIMES

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THE TIMES

Raj return

THE last vestiges of imperialism have been shooed from India's troubled shores: the House of Lords jaunt to India for descendants of the British viceroys has returned home. The group included the splendid Countess Mountbatten and her husband, Lord Brabourne, the Earl and Countess of Elgin, the Earl and Countess of Lytton and Lady Darcy de Knayth, descendant of the swashbuckling colonialist, Lord Clive. Highlight of the trip? An impromptu meeting with Jacques Chirac, President of France.

Fifty years of independence have done little to impair standards. "The Indians were very benign and kind — we were wonderfully looked after," says the group leader, Baroness Flather, who grew up in Lahore. "They attached an extra carriage to one train to help us move around. It was very comfortable, they served hot drinks."

First stop, Jaipur, where the colonial holidaymakers were guests of the Trident Hotel. "It was lovely," says the baroness. "We met the Maharajah, Bhawani Singh, and he insisted that we all have drinks in his palace. We rode on elephants — Countess Mountbatten was terribly good at it."

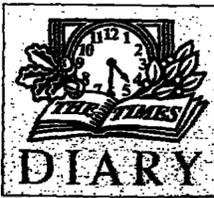
On to Agra, and some serious shopping. "We didn't have time for much sightseeing," she says, "because everyone wanted to buy lots of marble objects to take home." Their pockets full, the group returned to Delhi for the Republic Day celebrations. "We were invited for drinks in the President's Palace and we met Chirac," she says. "He hung on to my hand for ages. He just didn't seem to want to let go. He couldn't believe I was a member of the



Chirac and Mountbatten

Lords. There was a dinner afterwards but we weren't invited to stay for that. Happily, BA was more accommodating and gave the party complimentary club class flights back home.

PRINCE ANDREW has chosen to celebrate his 38th birthday next week with the Duchess of York. He is to fly to Verbier for a few days to join Sarah and the Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie who will be spending half-term skiing. The party will once again be staying in the chalet owned by Sarah's friend Paddy McNally, the motor racing tycoon. Some courtiers back home, who have been trying to distance the Duke from the Duchess, take



note: the couple are close, so why not let them be together?

Home defeat

AFTER seeing off various urban types in heroic fashion, Lawrence of Arabia has been defeated by suburbia. A pine summerhouse containing a fitness centre has been planked in front of a cottage built for the writer when he was an undergraduate in the grounds of the family's Oxford home.

The clan moved into Polstead Road in 1896. By 1908, the young Lawrence needed peace to study for his history degree at Jesus College so the tiny dwelling, containing a bedroom and study, was erected in the garden. The site has since become a shrine for Lawrence buffs. Then, just before Christmas, the owner put up the summerhouse without planning permission only a couple of feet from the cottage, outraging neighbours. Now Oxford City Council, wisely, has asked the offending householder to apply retrospectively for permission be-

fore it decides whether to back Lawrence in his final battle.

AS LABOUR investigates how John Prescott could have been so embarrassed at the Brits, it should consider why it allowed the Deputy PM to attend. In a recent entry, the *Diary* pointed out that Chumbawamba, the rock ensemble, was planning just such an ambush. At least Nigel Evans, MP, discovered the joys of opposition. When protesters who jumped on Cherie Blair saw Evans, the shaven-headed ringleader shouted: "Leave him alone, he's a Tory."

Long shot

FREDERICK FORSYTH, author of *The Day of the Jackal*, has been



"Calm down mother, I said that I've got a cold"

musings about the chances of an assassin taking out President Saddam Hussein. "It would be a good thing but there is no chance," he told me at the Foyles literary luncheon. Even if it were politically acceptable to send in an SAS hitman, he said, the job was "damned nearly impossible." "Saddam doesn't appear in public. He lives in bunkers 200ft underground and won't even see his sons without them being strip-searched first."

BOOBY prize at the Conservative winter ball: a weekend with Lady Olga Maitland. Number of takers? None.

Plinth politics

OSCAR WILDE would have found the tale rather dull. A plan by a group of theatrical worthies, headed by Sir Jeremy Isaacs, to erect a monument to the playwright in the theatreland has stalled because of financial difficulties — and artistic sniping. The statue should have been in place by now but no date has been set as to when it might grace WC2. Derek Jarman, the late film director, raised the project in 1994. But it was not until early last year that the Isaacs committee, which includes Dames Judi Dench and Maggie Smith, Sir Ian McKellen and the Earl of Gowrie, was established. A target of £175,000 was set and the unveiling was arranged for last autumn. Maggi Hambling, the sculptor, was chosen after submitting a design of Wilde emerging from a block of



Wilde still life: Oscar, Dames Maggie Smith, top, and Judi Dench

Brazilian granite, smoking. The design was attacked by critics for its failure to reflect the playwright's character and its lack of grandeur. Last autumn's deadline passed without the statue appearing, and so far only £110,000 has been raised. Some have suggested that Isaacs's unpopularity in the arts world stymied the fundraising. But Merlin Holland, Wilde's grandson, is happy. "Oscar would have hated something on a plinth locking down on Londoners. People have got their knives out which my



Wilde still life: Oscar, Dames Maggie Smith, top, and Judi Dench

grandfather would have loved." Hambling says: "We are on the way to raising enough funds and I will soon finish the statue. To paraphrase Wilde, when the critics disagree, the artist is one with himself." Writing in 1882, Wilde wrote: "In looking around at the figures which adorn our parks, one could almost wish that we had killed the noble art completely: to see the statues of our departed... adds a new horror to death."

JASPER GERARD

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INNOCENTS ABROAD

Blair is not an American poodle nor the EU's lapdog

There is some, possibly unanticipated, comfort for the Government as it confronts a Gulf crisis that seems destined for armed conflict sooner rather than later. An ICM opinion poll, published yesterday, indicates that the public supports present policy by a clear margin. A stand that is right does not require popular sanction but popularity is always welcome. The same survey shows strong approval for the sentiment that "Britain has more in common with America than it does with the rest of Europe" and an even sharper rejection of the claim that "Britain always does what the US Government tells us to do". The Government here will be grateful for that commendation in the difficult days ahead.

Now in the European Union would agree. Tony Blair's performance in Washington was not received well in Brussels. The concerns of that camp were outlined — with commendable candour — in the pages of the *International Herald Tribune* by Sir Roy Denman, the former head of the then European Community's delegation to Washington. Sir Roy charitably acknowledged that "there may be a case for armed action against Saddam Hussein", but he asked how Mr Blair's position would be viewed from continental Europe. Britain would be incapable of proper participation in the emerging EU common foreign policy if it appeared as a "poodle" intent on a "client-state relationship with America".

This represents an extraordinary sense of priority and proportion. A response to Iraq's biological and chemical weapons capability should apparently be subject to the quest for consensus within the European Union. It is all too clear what the character of an EU common foreign and security policy would constitute. Principle would hardly be at a premium. In its place there would be an insular approach and isolationist instinct that invariably preferred appeasement to

intervention. This has already been apparent from Baghdad to Bosnia to Burundi. We have seen the future and it shirks.

The Prime Minister's solidarity against Saddam Hussein was appreciated in the United States but with a reservation. Numerous commentators there agreed that Mr Blair's determination to act against Iraq was admirable. They lamented the fact that Britain's influence over its neighbours — and utility to the United States — was reduced by its reluctance to enter European monetary union from the outset or embrace European integration wholeheartedly. If it did, it was asserted, this country could act as an interlocutor between the EU and US. This view has been very widely expressed, even by Raymond Seitz, the respected recent American Ambassador to Britain.

This aspiration reflects a misunderstanding of the European project. Americans often seem to see EMU as merely a change of banknotes and political union as simply closer co-operation. The reality is that wholehearted integration would require a dramatic cultural transformation for this country. Our attitudes and institutions would need to shift towards the continental model. On that, Sir Roy Denman is completely correct. A Britain entrenched within the EU could not be an interlocutor for the United States. Current Anglo-American co-ordination on military and intelligence matters would be impossible.

Mr Blair should realise that he cannot be the toast of both Bill Clinton and Jacques Santer. The President should note that the special relationship cannot be reconciled with the creation of a European state that includes this country. The impasse in Iraq should have impressed the continued importance of transatlantic collaboration on each leader. The failures of EU foreign policy are plain. That lesson must be remembered after this conflict is resolved.

BEWARE THE BROTHERS

Easy union recognition could bring back the bad old days

The 22 most carefully drafted words in Labour's general election manifesto are today being fought over with all the passion that the Early Fathers showed when they debated the status of the Holy Ghost. These days, however, the antagonists in the argument are brothers, not fathers. And their semantic dispute centres on what Tony Blair really meant when he promised a law governing union recognition.

The manifesto pledge ran like this: "Where a majority of the relevant workforce vote in a ballot for the union to represent them, the union should be recognised." To the CBI, this is perfectly clear: a majority of the relevant workforce must be secured, not merely a majority of those voting. The TUC, however, wants a simple majority in the ballot. In other words, if 12 out of a 100-strong workforce vote "yes" and 11 vote "no", then the whole hundred will find that they are in a collective bargaining unit represented by a trade union.

Through such seeds can militant trade unionism spread. All it might take in an otherwise benign working environment would be a highly motivated militant group taking advantage of lethargic colleagues to force collective bargaining both on their management and other employees. Once the union were recognised, the impact on investor confidence would be immediate. Although the result could be stable industrial relations, many employers understandably fear the opposite.

Companies that derecognised trade unions in the 1980s did so because they had been so badly damaged in the past. Certain industries saw intimidation, cheating and restrictive practices on a scale that is almost impossible to believe in the peaceful climate of the 1990s. Demarcation was so severe that no one in a collar and tie could change a light bulb or collect an envelope without precipitating industrial action. Newspaper production was sabotaged, and *The Times*, among other papers, was forced off the streets for long periods. When the stranglehold over the industry was finally broken, unions resorted to physical violence to try to protect their unearned privileges.

So it is not surprising that some employers are wary of allowing unions to re-enter their plants. They do not dispute the right of individuals to join unions and to seek advice from them. But what they do not want is to be caught again in a web of restrictive practices and industrial action that prevents them from managing their businesses. Nor do most of their employees want to be bound by agreements made in their name for which they have not voted.

Labour has made its pledge, and many employers will have to accept that some form of union recognition might come. But ministers should not delude themselves that this is anything other than a big step, however it is designed. Conversely, the unions should be grateful that, along with the minimum wage and the social chapter, Tony Blair has acceded to their demands on recognition. Trying to push him further to make the terms even more favourable to the unions would be damaging to British business and to the prosperity on which their members' jobs depend.

If Mr Blair opts for the CBI position, the TUC will try to present it as backsliding. It is no such thing. The Prime Minister has never promised anything stronger and nor did the manifesto. MPs, meanwhile, would be wise to resist the intense TUC lobbying barrage to which they are currently being subjected and to lift their eyes to the broader picture. Many of them owe their position to voters' perception that Labour would not damage business. A return to "old" Labour instincts now could cost them dearly later.

I DON'T WANT TO GO TO CHELSEA

Turn left at Abbey Road for the Waterloo Sunset

The long and winding road now leads to a garage door with a blue plaque on it. The built heritage which attracted the cultural tourist was, not so long ago, Blenheim and Polesden Lacey but now it is the petrol station in Romford where the Rolling Stones once found, after a painful journey, a particular form of satisfaction. The British Tourist Authority has, in the spirit of Cool Britannia, produced a *vade-mecum* to the nation's sites of pop pilgrimage which helps visitors to get back to where their rock heroes once belonged.

It is a moot point whether the visitors drawn to the courts in Cambridge where Isaac Newton first took his stumbling steps towards thermodynamics will now be outnumbered by those drawn to the garden where Olivia Newton-John first took her stumbling steps. But a nation which can impress the world with its ability to accumulate platinum discs as well as Nobel Prizes for Physics should be nothing if not vigorous in inviting tourists to visit more than just very big houses in the country.

The compilers of the rock map and its accompanying gazetteer of glam have not been lazing on their Sunday afternoons: few corners of the country and few recesses of the jukebox have been neglected, in a compilation which ranges from Mott the Hoople to the Ferry cross the Mersey. Some of the sites

will attract more interest than others. The garage wall where the Stones relieved themselves is unlikely to feature on many tourist camcorders but the Chelsea chemist whose early closing inspired Mick Jagger to write *You Can't Always Get What You Want* may find that some of the visiting fans have unusual pharmacological requirements.

For sociologists of rock perhaps the most significant trend on the map is the emergence of fashion leaders from the less fashionable areas: pop is, emphatically, the sound of the suburbs. Metroland is as much the home of Bowie as Bejman. Those who affect to be working-class heroes are often the children of the petty-bourgeoisie.

More striking still, those whose undyed roots are genuinely proletarian have gone through a process of gentrification more comprehensive than any Islington terrace. The Gallagher brothers, when not sipping champagne in Downing Street, shelter behind the wonderwalls of vast Hampstead villas. Bryan Ferry and Jools Holland see rather more of the aristocracy than the clerks do in the House of Lords. If Britain continues to produce millionaire rock stars at the rate it does now, then future fans will find that it is not Romford and Hull but Blenheim and Polesden Lacey which have to be visited in order to glimpse the nation's stars in their natural milieu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Balancing freedom of speech with protection of privacy

From Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC

Sir, The European Commission and the Court of Human Rights have long made it clear that the right to free expression is paramount; that the role of the press in acting as purveyor of news and opinions on matters of public interest is essential to a healthy democratic society; that any restrictions of free speech must be strictly scrutinised to ensure that they are justified by pressing social needs; and that prior restraints on publication (letters, February 9) may be imposed only exceptionally and only where the public interest manifestly so requires. The European Court has also made it clear that public figures cannot use privacy claims to suppress or chill reporting by the media on matters of public interest.

By enacting the Human Rights Bill, Parliament will require British courts to give effect to Article 10 (guaranteeing free speech) and to have regard to the Strasbourg case law. In that way, the Bill will greatly strengthen the freedom of the press and of the public. The courts will have to ensure that statute law and common law do not unnecessarily hamper free speech.

But freedom of speech is not absolute. It has to be balanced against other basic civil rights, including the right to respect for personal privacy guaranteed by Article 8. The media cannot take advantage of the benefits of Article 10 without accepting the responsibility to comply with Article 8. Even ministers or newspaper editors are entitled to protection against gross intrusions on their private lives, unconnected with any legitimate public interest. In my view, our courts will give that protection under the common law, quite independently of what is required by the Convention.

Surely it is in the interests of the media that the Press Complaints Commission should have the power to give effective remedies to the victims of the misuse of the powers of the press, including the power to give compensation. That would make it much less necessary to have recourse to the courts.

It is also in the interests of the media that the PCC is a public authority, able to be challenged by judicial review if it unnecessarily restricts free speech. I do not believe that it should become a court of law, or that it

should be empowered to impose "prior restraint" preventing threatened invasions of privacy; but, to the extent that the PCC is unable to grant effective remedies, it will be left to the courts to do so.

It is essential that the courts should only grant injunctions restraining the media in exceptional cases of real necessity, based upon demonstrable evidence that the public interest so requires. That is entirely in step with the Strasbourg case law, which will inform the way in which British courts protect Convention rights.

The Human Rights Bill will require our courts to grant injunctions against the media only in such exceptional circumstances. It will protect the individual against the misuse of public powers, giving our courts a similar role to those of courts throughout the common law world and it deserves to be welcomed by the media.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY LESTER,
House of Lords,
February 9.

From the Director of Liberty

Sir, It is particularly unfortunate that the Churches and the newspapers, which have been important allies in the campaign to obtain proper protection for human rights in this country, are now among those lobbying for exemptions for themselves from the provisions of the Human Rights Bill (reports, February 9).

The rights contained in the European Convention, which is being incorporated by this Bill, are not as all-encompassing as the Churches and the press seem to think: for instance, in the absence of employment protection or a free-standing anti-discrimination provision, the Churches fear that their schools will be forced to employ non-believers (letters, February 9) is unjustified.

The press have not been well served by those who have made exaggerated claims about the privacy provision. As the Lord Chancellor has argued, the simplest way for the Press Complaints Commission to avoid litigation in the courts against newspapers is to ensure that the Commission provides effective remedies for those who have suffered unjustified invasions of their privacy.

The argument for exemptions is un-

convincing and deeply unattractive. The rights in the Convention are very important but only provide the most basic of protections: the Church and the press will be damaged not by this Bill but by their attempt to wriggle out of accepting the duties that will be imposed on everyone else.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WADHAM,
Director, Liberty,
21 Tabard Street, SE1 4LA,
February 6.

From Mr Richard A. Edwards

Sir, Given the power of the Internet to disseminate globally information, the Lord Chancellor's proposed system of prior restraint in privacy cases is a futile, Canute-like gesture.

The power of the Internet was recently illustrated by the availability of information on Jack Straw's son despite an injunction preventing the publication of his name in England and Wales. Those of us resident in England or Wales were easily able to read the details on Websites registered outside the jurisdiction.

What, then, is to prevent a newspaper registering a Website in the US thereby enjoying the protection of First Amendment and avoiding the sanctions of the Press Complaints Commission?

Yours etc.
RICHARD A. EDWARDS,
60 Queen's Road, Devises SN10 5HW,
February 6.

From Mrs Marguerite Evers

Sir, How dare Lord Irvine of Lairg have the effrontery to claim that there exist circumstances in which "the public would not be supportive of the ideas of a free press" (report, February 9).

I am "the public" and there are absolutely no circumstances in which I would not be supportive of a free press. There have been occasions when I have despised their excesses, but I would vigorously defend their right to earn my fury.

I do not have the same protective feelings towards inexperienced Lords.

Yours faithfully,
M. EVERS,
25 Kensington Park Gardens,
London W11 2QS,
February 5.

Musical education

From Dr Isidor Jack Lyons

Sir, As the founder of the Leeds International Piano Competition, and as Fanny Waterman's predecessor as chairman, I support her call (letter, February 7) for greater government commitment to musical education. I am equally convinced that this vital matter must not be considered in isolation.

In civilised societies music has never been viewed as a discrete part of the syllabus or of life — an option with which to dispense as soon as money runs short. Music is an essential complement to the study of mathematics and of logic. It is one of the few ways known to mankind through which one can make the heart sing whilst helping the mind to soar.

Music should be at the very centre of our lives, and the best way to achieve this is to guarantee access to all, especially the young.

Yours faithfully,
JACK LYONS,
Bancroft Alexandra, DI,
La Frasse,
1837 Chateau D'Oex, Switzerland,
February 10.

From Professor Emeritus Wilfrid Mellers

Sir, I was gratified that your correspondence column gave liberal space to those supporting Sir Simon Rattle's denunciation (letter, January 23) of the Government's attack on music education, especially at primary level.

Your leading article ("Passing the baton", February 7) on modern classical music is, however, a different cup of tea. If embryonic composers had been encouraged over the years to make pretty tunes and charming harmonies according to the rules, there would have been no Stravinsky, no Janáček, and, above all, no Beethoven.

Yours faithfully,
WILFRID MELLERS,
17 Aldwick,
York YO1 2BX,
February 10.

From Mrs Janet Atkins

Sir, The Hungarian composer Kodály wrote: "Our age of mechanisation leads along a road ending with man himself as a machine; only the spirit of singing can save us from this fate."

He established a method of teaching singing to primary school children, using hand signals to indicate the notes, which is cheap, extraordinarily effective and a gift to a child for life. Could Sir Simon Rattle please find a means of encouraging this simple technique to be established in our primary schools?

Yours sincerely,
JANET ATKINS,
Cross House,
Whittington,
Carnforth, Lancashire LA6 2NX,
February 6.

Reform of the Lords

From Viscount Runciman of Doxford, FBA

Sir, I must take issue with Lord Maitland's apparent belief (letter, January 31) that, once the existing rights of hereditary peers have been abolished, an elected second chamber is the only alternative to "a system in which the Prime Minister packs the chamber with allies".

Such a contention not only ignores the Prime Minister's stated intention of retaining a substantial number of crossbench peers: it also fails to recognise that it would be entirely feasible to put in place a system of open nomination, careful scrutiny and non-partisan appointment, based not on patronage but on merit.

Advocates of an elected second chamber need to ask themselves both whether the most suitable potential members would be willing to stand in contested elections and whether some demonstrably less suitable candidates might not succeed in getting elected. It goes without saying that real power would remain with the elected House of Commons.

Yours faithfully,
RUNCIMAN,
House of Lords,
February 2.

From Mr William Wyndham

Sir, The "sinister silence" of which Lord Maitland speaks is not in the Lords. A large number of peers have left it generally known they will welcome any overall reform of their House that "opens up our democracy and strengthens the rights of our citizens" (in the spin words of Labour's election manifesto); but they will not accept a removal of the hereditaries until a satisfactory alternative is put in its place. That position fits fair and square with their traditional role as guardians of the constitution.

No — the ominous silence is in the House of Commons. It was strange alliances there that scuppered reform in

1969. Since then, while the Lords have soldiered quietly on, the Commons have manifestly failed to control and scrutinise government.

The Commons failure gives no reason for optimism that they will welcome an elected second chamber to do their work for them. It is "our citizens", so poorly represented, who suffer from our discredited Parliament.

I suggest that we leave the Lords, with all their constitutional diversity, their patient expertise and their occasional battiness, to get on with it as they are.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM WYNDHAM,
Castlegate House,
Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1YT,
January 31.

From Lord Rix

Sir, I was cheered by Magnus Linklater's friendly article this morning, "The age of the senior citizen".

Talking to us crossbenchers before the election, Tony Blair stressed the importance of our independent role in the Upper House. The Leader of the House, Lord Richards, reiterated this again only last week.

There are 321 of us, and we are a disparate group indeed: 208 are hereditary peers, 113 of us are life peers. We are (or were) businessmen, lawyers, judges, JPs, farmers, accountants, bankers, diplomats, politicians, doctors, academics, religious leaders, civil servants, charity workers and even one ex-actor — me! Hereditary peer or life peer — the majority of us attained some distinction in our chosen work and are true representatives of the areas of interest which concern us. I cannot believe that this myriad collective of knowledge will be lightly disbanded by the Bill to be laid before us in the next session. Where else would you receive such expert advice for £34.50 per day?

Yours etc.
BRIAN RIX,
House of Lords,
February 5.

Grade A doctors

From Professor Stephen Tomlinson

Sir, You reported (January 30) the results of research by Professor Chris McManus and others, published in the *British Medical Journal*, on the relationship between A-level grades of students entering medical schools, their clinical experiences and their final examination performance. Your report concluded that "the wrong sort of people are becoming doctors". This was not a stated conclusion of the authors of the *BMJ* article.

The study by Professor McManus and his colleagues looked at students who applied for admission to St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, in 1981 and 1986 and completed their courses in 1987 and 1992. They recognised in the *BMJ* article that the radical educational and curricular changes being introduced into medical schools since the publication of *Tomorrow's Doctors* by the General Medical Council may invalidate our findings for future generations of medical students.

The changes in courses and modes of assessment have been substantial. There is now more continuous assessment and less reliance on a final examination. Medical schools take more account of criteria other than A-level performance when selecting prospective students and attach importance to their attitudes and values.

It has long been recognised that A levels are not good predictors of performance in final university examinations, whatever the subject.

Yours etc.
STEPHEN TOMLINSON
(Executive Secretary),
Council of Heads of Medical Schools,
Woburn House,
20 Tavistock Square, WC1H 9HD,
February 4.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

A perfectly happy prisoner, is Pooh

From the Misses Mary and Jane Pritchard

Sir, Gwyneth Dunwoody, MP, may claim that Winnie the Pooh and his friends languish imprisoned in a glass case in New York (report, February 6), but our annual visits to the New York Public Library's children's library, conveniently located across the road from the Museum of Modern Art, convince us that they are happy in their home surrounded by the best of children's literature.

They have been well cared for in New York — all gloomy Eeyore's wounds have been attended to — and they are pleased to welcome their special visitors. They have returned to England when invited to take part in exhibitions, such as one at the Victoria and Albert in the late 1960s that *The Times* itself recognised as a "Very Good Thing" (report, December 16, 1969), but they appreciate that the welcoming staff of the NYPL have made their own special area into a new Enchanted Place where they can always play.

Yours faithfully,
MARY PRITCHARD,
JANE PRITCHARD,
50 Winston Road,
Newington Green, N16 9LT,
February 5.

From Dr Peter Cameron

Sir, In a television interview today, the Prime Minister said that it didn't matter very much if Winnie the Pooh and his friends were unhappy in the New York Central Library, because he seemed to remember they were always pretty unhappy in the books.

Except in relation to Eeyore, this is rather surprising. It's like remembering Dennis the Menace as the teacher's pet, or Billy Butcher as anorexic. Is our leader a Blair of No Brain At All? And should we any longer find it comforting when he tells us that he and his Government are working for our future happiness?

Yours faithfully,
PETER CAMERON,
Spoutwells House,
Scone, Perthshire PH2 6RN,
February 5.

From Mr Cyles Brandreth

Sir, You are quite right (leading article, February 5): Winnie the Pooh is one of the great immortals of children's literature. He doesn't belong to any one country. He belongs to the world. If A. A. Milne and his son were happy for Pooh to live in New York, we should be too.

I hope it may be possible to arrange for Pooh to come to Britain for a visit, but should clamouring for his return should beware of chauvinism and be ready for a surprise. They may find the true Winnie the Pooh does not look quite as they expect.

While E. H. Shepherd based his matchless illustrations of Eeyore, Tigger, Kanga, Roo and Piglet on Christopher Robin's childhood toys, his model for the drawings of Pooh was not the English bear now in the New York Public Library. It was his own son's bear, Growler — a Steiff bear, made in Germany.

Yours faithfully,
GYLES BRANDRETH (Founder),
The Teddy Bear Museum,
19 Greenhill Street,
Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6LF,
February 6.

From Mr Eduard Fuller

Sir, Winnie the Pooh and friends are not prisoners in New York as Mrs Dunwoody seems to think, but hard at work, as they have been for many years, increasing our gross national product and helping to balance our foreign trade deficit by bringing many US dollars into this country from royalties — as beneficiaries Westminster School and the Garrick Club. *Inter alia*, will attest to.

Yours faithfully,
EDUARD FULLER,
Springfield Farm,
Buckhorn Weston, Dorset SP8 5HX,
efuller@aol.com,
February 6.

High born

From Dr Vivian J. Phillips

Sir, Your report (January 30) on the return of the Reuss family to its estate in Gera, eastern Germany, did not mention one interesting fact — namely that they feature in the 1980 edition of *The Guinness Book of Records* as having achieved the highest post-nominal number ever used to designate a member of a royal house. This occurred with Count Heinrich LXXXV (1800-01).

How this came about is described in detail in the 11th edition of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. In the Reuss family the very odd custom prevailed of naming every male child Heinrich. Not surprisingly, it was necessary to assign numbers to them to be able to tell them apart.

There were two branches of the House of Reuss, the elder line of Reuss-Greiz and the younger line of Reuss-Schleiz Gera. In the elder branch, the numbering could continue until one hundred was reached and then start again from number one. In the other branch (that of Heinrich LXXXV) the numbering restarted at the beginning of each century.

Yours faithfully,
V. J. PHILLIPS,
26 Derwen Fawr Road,
Sketty, Swansea SA2 8AA,
February 1.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE February 10: The Queen held an Introduction at Buckingham Palace this morning.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will visit the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, 23 Portland Place, London, W1, at 3.00.

Sir James Dunnett

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Sir James Dunnett, GCB, CMG, will be held in Westminster Abbey on Monday, March 23, 1998, at 3.00pm.

Judicial appointment

Mr Stuart William Baker, who has been appointed a Circuit Judge, has been assigned to the Northern Circuit.

Awards

Institution of Mechanical Engineers The Tribology Gold Medal (administered by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers) was awarded yesterday to the Swedish Scholar Professor Bo Olav Jacobson by the British Ambassador to Sweden, Mr Roger Bone, CMG, Princess Lillian of Sweden and Mr Carl Tham, Swedish Minister for Education and Science, were present.

Federal Republic of Germany The German Ambassador yesterday presented Mr Tim Timmermann, former Managing Director of Lufthansa (UK and Ireland), with the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany at the German Embassy.

Turners' Company

Mr Peter Worlidge, Master of the Turners' Company, presided at the annual awards court held yesterday at Apothecaries' Hall.

Dinners

Foundation for Science and Technology Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society.

National Liberal Club Sir Christopher Bland, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the BBC, was the guest of honour and speaker at a dinner of the Political and Economic Circle of the National Liberal Club held last night at the club.

University Women's Club Lord Birtwell was the guest speaker at a University Women's Club dinner held last night at 2 Audley Square, Mayfair.



The contents of this elegant drawing room at Hackwood Park will be sold in a grand house clearance.

Press baron's house treasures go on sale

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ART and antiques from one of England's great stately homes are to be sold in one of the grandest house clearances this decade.



A painting of Churchill playing cards by Paul Maze, which is expected to make £5,000 to £8,000.

Bellerophon, Plymouth Sound, with Napoleon going into exile, produced as an illustration for Sir Walter Scott's Life of Napoleon, estimated to make around £35,000.



Norman Kark, the editor of Courier magazine, who celebrated his 100th birthday yesterday.

Memorial meeting

Baroness Llewelyn-Davies of Hastoe The Queen was represented by Lord Carter at a memorial meeting held yesterday at the House of Lords to celebrate the life of Baroness Llewelyn-Davies of Hastoe.

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, KG, presided at the memorial meeting. Other speakers were the Rev Lord Soper, Baroness Gledhill, Lord Sainsbury, Lord Clifton-Davies, Baroness Carrington, Lord Denham and Miss Hattie Llewelyn-Davies, daughter.

Service luncheon

HMS Victory General Hartmut Bagger, Chief of Staff of the Federal Armed Forces Germany, was the guest of honour at a luncheon held in HMS Victory yesterday.

Turners' Company

Mr Peter Worlidge, Master of the Turners' Company, presided at the annual awards court held yesterday at Apothecaries' Hall.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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OBITUARIES

MAURICE SCHUMANN

Maurice Schumann, French Foreign Minister, 1969-73, died yesterday aged 86. He was born on April 10, 1911.

Among the French politicians of his day in being thoroughly Anglophile, as Foreign Minister under President Pompidou, Maurice Schumann did much to heal the breach in Anglo-French relations and to smooth Britain's path into the European Economic Community. It was a period in which he played a leading role in the development of what was then the Common Market. In his previous ministerial services under de Gaulle, from 1957, his strong European convictions had separated him from his leader. He had then been described as "the most European of Gaullists," yet "the most Gaullist of Europeans".

His appointment as Foreign Minister by the new President, Georges Pompidou, in June 1969, was a signal that France was intending to pursue a new policy towards the Community and the making of Europe. Most important, it sent a signal that France was not likely to continue to oppose the entry of Britain, and this was confirmed when Edward Heath signed the Treaty of Accession in January 1972. The difference on Europe apart, Schumann had had a long attachment to de Gaulle. During the war he was the Free French leader's official radio spokesman in London. Afterwards he remained loyal to the general on most matters: only on European integration he never saw eye to eye with his chief, and he was never afraid to cross swords with him on the issue. Acknowledged on this side of the Channel as a good friend to Britain, Schumann was admired in his own country as a public figure of great integrity.

The son of a small factory owner, Maurice Schumann was born in Paris and educated at the Lycée Henri IV (where the philosopher Alain was one of his teachers) and at the Sorbonne, where he took an arts degree. Jewish by birth, he was an early convert

to Catholicism, and strongly held Christian, Democrat ideals were to dominate all of his career.

Before the war he worked as a journalist, joining the Havas news agency in 1932. As well as covering stories in London for the agency, he wrote articles denouncing the Munich Agreement and appeasement. In 1938 he published *Le germanisme en marche*. In 1939-40 he served as a liaison officer with the British forces in France. Then, when he heard de Gaulle's defiant broadcast of June 18, 1940, calling on the people of France to fight on, he hastened to join him in London and developed a warm fidelity, working as de Gaulle's spokesman and making nightly broadcasts — a total of 1,200 — to occupied France. It was this deep attachment to de Gaulle which pervaded these broadcasts and gave them their compelling fervour. From 1940 to 1944 he was chief official broadcaster in the BBC's French service.

In June 1944 he took part in the Normandy landings and was one of the first French officers to set foot again on his native soil. He was personally decorated by de Gaulle with the Croix de Guerre for bravery during the hotly contested passage of the River Orne and during the bitter fighting around Caen. It was at this period that he met the young artillery officer, Edward Heath, with whom his destiny was to be politically linked.

Schumann rose to political prominence soon after the war. In 1944-45 he was a member of the provisional consultative assembly, and he helped to found France's Christian Democrat party, the Mouvement Républicain Populaire, becoming its president in 1945. He held junior posts in several governments before and after de Gaulle's return to power in 1958, and revered the general as a wartime patriot and peacetime social reformer. But in 1962, along with several other leaders of his party, he resigned in protest at de Gaulle's disdainful attitude to European unification.

However, when the Mouvement Républicain Populaire collapsed, Schumann joined



the Gaullist party in 1967, and later he returned to the Government as minister first for scientific research and then for social affairs in the testing period just after the strikes of May 1968.

When Pompidou became President in 1969, Schumann was his ideal choice as Foreign Minister: the man best equipped for the delicate balancing act of preserving a reassuring continuity with certain Gaullist principles while also carrying out the *ouverture* in relations with Europe and America that Pompidou thought essential. In 1971 Schumann was the first

French Foreign Minister to pay an official visit to London for eight years. Helped by his perfect English and his love for Britain, he built up warm relations with Edward Heath and his team during the EEC negotiations, doing much to remove the strain that de Gaulle had caused. As a negotiator, Schumann struck his brief and could be tough. But he was happier when committed to a course he believed in, and in his determination to give substance to Franco-British co-operation, he was able at last to dispel the miasma that had overlain relations between the two

countries for so long. For his contribution to the successful outcome of negotiations he was appointed an honorary GCMG in 1972. He was active elsewhere in the world, too, during his four years in charge of the Quai d'Orsay which marked the zenith of his career. He visited China, where he secured the coup of a 90-minute talk with Chairman Mao, who did not normally receive foreign visitors other than heads of state. Mao received him because he was an old Gaullist, and the Chinese leader was grateful to de Gaulle for having recognised China in 1964. The con-

versation dwelt a great deal on the EEC, and particularly on the entry of Britain, which Mao welcomed as a counterweight to the influence of America and the Soviet Union on Europe.

Schumann also went to Moscow, and in talks in Washington with President Nixon he helped to improve Franco-American relations. In North Africa he was able to rebuild French bridges with Morocco after the damaging Ben Barka affair. But his Middle East policy was less successful: Israel thought him too pro-Arab.

Through a tough negotiator, Schumann had a warm, direct and human approach to diplomacy. Foreign affairs were his life's speciality, and he was widely travelled. To the job of Foreign Minister he brought an ardour and optimism quite different from the habitual blasé scepticism of some of his officials.

In the elections of 1973 he was defeated by a Socialist in the constituency near Lille that he had held since 1945, and so he was obliged to resign as a minister. Straight away, he sat down to write a novel. It was not his first. Thereafter he played little part in public affairs, though for some years he was a senator.

Much of the rest of his life was devoted to writing. He published biographies, essays and works of political philosophy as well as several more novels, one of them about a Mozart concerto. One remarkable book that offered an insight into his idealism was a study of Péguy, Gandhi and Simone Weil, three visionaries whose deaths were, as he acknowledged in Rilke's phrase, "the living consummation of their lives".

Maurice Schumann was a highly cultured and versatile man, a Christian humanist who used politics to translate his social and international ideals into action. He once said: "Alain taught me how to doubt, Simone Weil how to believe, and de Gaulle how to fight".

He married, in 1944, Lucie Daniel, whom he met in London. They had three daughters.

PROFESSOR ROBERT THOMPSON

Robert Thompson, CBE, FRS, Courtauld Professor of Biochemistry, Middlesex Hospital Medical School, 1965-76, died on January 15 aged 85. He was born on February 2, 1912.

AS A biochemistry demonstrator in Oxford during the Second World War, Robert Thompson worked on the development of defences against possible attack with chemical weapons, devising in particular an antidote to the toxic effects of the poison gas Lewisite. This organic compound of arsenic had been developed in America towards the end of the First World War, and its reappearance in the 1940s was greatly feared.

British Anti-Lewisite was one of the very first drugs to be developed not as a result of serendipity, but from a deliberate and logically pursued programme to fit chemical properties to a particular task. It was a very considerable achievement, and for his contribution Thompson was awarded the university's Radcliffe Prize for medical research. Continuing his work after the war, he was soon regarded as one of the leading minds in the development of medical biochemistry.

The son of a Croydon doctor, Robert Henry Stewart Thompson was educated at Epsom College and from there went as a scholar to Trinity College, Oxford. He took a first in physiology and spent a further year with a Senior Demyship at Magdalen as a demonstrator in the biochemistry department. He went on to Guy's Hospital to complete his clinical training for the Oxford BM. Then, in 1937, he went straight back to the laboratory and spent a year at the Rockefeller Institute in New York before his return to Oxford as demonstrator in biochemistry and as medical fellow and tutor at University College.

During the war Thompson travelled extensively in the United States on behalf of the Ministry of Supply to discuss drug manufacture. Then in 1944 he was commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps and stationed in North Queensland, Australia, for a year. Here he was sometimes responsible for routine medical duties, though his experience as medical student long before left him scantily prepared.

Although British Anti-Lewisite was not used in the war for its original purpose, it proved to be effective in the treatment of Wilson's disease, a rare and very disabling genetically determined disorder of the nervous system.

Thompson returned to Oxford in 1945 and in the following year, at just 33, he was appointed Dean of the Oxford Medical School. This remarkably young appointment was a clear indication of the high regard in which he was held by his colleagues and a pointer to his future success in public office.

In 1949 he left Oxford to return to Guy's as Professor of Chemical Pathology. His chair was one of a number founded at the time at Guy's, where academic pursuits had previously been regarded by some with *thoroughgoing suspicion*. He remained there with a flourishing department until 1965, when he was asked to take over the directorship of the Courtauld Institute of Biochemistry at the Middlesex Hospital.

Until the end of his time at the Courtauld Institute in 1975, he pursued his special interest in the nervous system and its disorders. He was especially intrigued by possible biochemical factors in multiple sclerosis, but despite the promising lines of inquiry and some very intelligent ideas, the work, as often happens in medical research, did not lead to any startling results.

Thompson served on several advisory committees at the Ministry of Defence, and from 1968 to 1975 he was chairman of the Chemical Defence Advisory Board at the ministry. In 1969 he was a member of a committee sent by the Home Office to Northern Ireland to investigate the effects of the use of CS gas.

He was joint author of two textbooks, one on biochemistry and one on chemical pathology, and published many scientific articles. He also urged upon his junior staff the importance of publishing the results of their experiments.

As secretary-general of the International Union of Biochemistry for ten years, he was responsible for the organisation of three international congresses. He was also honorary secretary of the Royal Society of Medicine, and president of the Association of Clinical Chemists.

From 1958 to 1962 he was a member of the Medical Research Council and he served as chairman of the grants committee. He was also for 20 years a trustee of the Wellcome Trust, which felt the benefit of his advice in the increasingly important field of biochemistry in medical research. He was appointed CBE in 1973, and the following year he was elected FRS.

He died in the year of the 60th anniversary of his marriage to Inge, who survives him with their son and two daughters.

VIC GIBBONS

Vic Gibbons, twice Britain's best all-rounder cycling champion, died on January 21 aged 75. He was born on June 15, 1922.

FEW sportsmen's careers span 51 years, but Vic Gibbons, who started racing in 1940, remained in active competition until six years ago. Youthful aspirations, interrupted by the war years, were

rekindled when he returned from Army service with the Royal Artillery, mature and determined to stake his claim to fame as a road cyclist. When, after the age of 40, he was entitled to compete as a veteran, he rapidly rewrote the record books with a consistent display of speed that kept him in the headlines.

Yet he always said that while champion status gave

him great satisfaction, his basic enjoyment was the simple fun of racing with others and recording fast times. At heart, Gibbons always put his club and his colleagues first.

His death was the third within five weeks of riders who have broken the British 50 miles time trial record: George Fleming (1 hour 59 minutes 14 seconds in 1947,

Keith Bentley (1 hour 56 minutes 44 seconds, 1952) and Gibbons (1 hour 56 minutes 24 seconds, 1955).

His success as a competitor stemmed from a love of cycling, together with a physical strength developed from handling 40-gallon oil drums at the Shellhams refinery near his Essex home at Corringham. He thrived on what cyclists call "hard days", when

the wind is strong and the roads undulating. The term "a Gibbons Morning" became part of cycling argot.

He bought his first bike from a stall in London's Sunday market in Petticoat Lane (Middlesex Street) for five shillings, and had his first 25 miles open time trial, promoted by his club, the Brentwood Road Club, in 1940. His trademark then and one which lasted for years was the use of a hairnet: not for aerodynamic reasons but simply to keep his hair out of his eyes and thus reduce interference to his concentration on turning the pedals.

It was a fashion that never caught on, but to him it was as important as the meticulous manner in which he prepared the bicycles he used to become twice Britain's "champion of champions" time trial rider in 1953 and 1954. In those two years he won the coveted best all-rounder time trial competition with the fastest average speed for the event at 50 and 100 miles and 12 hours. His 1954 average was 23.81 mph.

Gibbons retained the 1954 all-rounder award ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall. There to greet him was Louison Bobet, three times winner of the Tour de France, who presented Gibbons with the yellow jersey he had won in that year's race. The following year, 1955, Gibbons broke the British 50 miles record with a time of 1 hour 56 minutes 24 seconds. Between 1950 and 1955 he was never out of the top three in the season-long all-rounder competition, the acknowledged hallmark of

the year's outstanding champion in time events.

His potential was evident almost from the very start of his racing career and a 25 miles time of 1 hour 41 minutes 25 seconds set the cycling world temporarily agog with a mixture of surprise, admiration and disbelief. Only a week later he disappointed his new supporters when he was almost five minutes slower on a different course. But what some critics had not taken into account was that Gibbons had left his home near Laindon, Essex, at 4am to ride 40 miles to the event and was facing the return journey after the trial.

When his wartime service ended, Gibbons returned to cycling competition, still preferring local events to those farther afield, although he was prepared to ride 80 miles to the famous Bath Road course the night before the annual classic 100 miles trial near Theale, Berkshire.

Age did not take its usual toll on Gibbons, and once qualified as a veteran he went on to set 41 national records, including a remarkable time of 1 hour 52 minutes 52 seconds in 1971 for 50 miles, almost four minutes faster than his 1955 British competition record. Even a serious accident while training — in which he suffered a shattered left leg — did not completely put an end to his active cycling. His last years, however, were marred by persistent ill-health.

Vic Gibbons was predeceased by his wife Peggy in 1981. There were no children.



PERSONAL COLUMN

UK HOLIDAYS

Christmas Eve: 23 Dec. Christmas Day: 24 Dec. Boxing Day: 25 Dec. New Year's Eve: 31 Dec. New Year's Day: 1 Jan.

WINTER SPORTS

Winter sports centres: 1000+ in the UK. Skiing: 1000+ resorts. Snow: 1000+ resorts. Ice skating: 1000+ resorts.

MIDWEEK RENDEZVOUS

Midweek rendezvous: 1000+ events. Music: 1000+ events. Dance: 1000+ events. Sports: 1000+ events.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES

Antiques & collectables: 1000+ items. Furniture: 1000+ items. Art: 1000+ items. Jewellery: 1000+ items.

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Health & beauty: 1000+ products. Skincare: 1000+ products. Haircare: 1000+ products. Cosmetics: 1000+ products.

FLATSHARE

Flatshare: 1000+ properties. London: 1000+ properties. Manchester: 1000+ properties. Birmingham: 1000+ properties.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

Flights directory: 1000+ airlines. British Airways: 1000+ routes. Virgin Atlantic: 1000+ routes. Ryanair: 1000+ routes.

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FLIGHT SEEKERS

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Jetworld

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FLIGHTWISE

Flightwise: 1000+ flights. London: 1000+ flights. Manchester: 1000+ flights. Birmingham: 1000+ flights.

FLIGHT SEARCHERS

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NEWS

Belfast murders jeopardise talks

Sinn Fein's place in the Stormont peace talks was in grave danger last night after republican gunmen killed two men in Belfast within 12 hours. Unionist and loyalist politicians said they would demand Sinn Fein's expulsion if the IRA was connected to either death.

The deaths ended a two-week lull after a series of sectarian and terrorist murders provoked by INLA's killing of Billy Wright in the Maze prison on December 27. Page 1

Britons are leading ladies for Oscars

British stars dominated the Oscar shortlist for best actress. Dame Judi Dench was nominated for her portrayal of Queen Victoria in Mrs Brown. Kate Winslet for her role in Titanic. Helena Bonham Carter for Wings of a Dove and Julie Christie for Afterglow, which is not yet out in Britain. Pages 1, 9

Yeltsin confused

Boris Yeltsin's first visit to Rome since the fall of Communism got off to a bad start when he appeared confused and unsure who he was talking to. But his meeting with the Pope went better. Page 1

New look at ID cards

Personal identity cards for every citizen are being reconsidered as part of the package of new measures to improve public services. There are no plans to make them compulsory. Page 2

Rough justice

The High Court dispute between a golf club and a British Airways pilot who was expelled for making an allegedly racist remark was halted when the two sides agreed to a settlement. Page 3

In the doghouse

Danbert Nobacon, the pop star who drenched John Prescott at the Brit Awards, will have some explaining to do when he rings his mother, she said. Page 3

Union confrontation

Tony Blair is considering a compromise over rights in pay negotiations in order to head off his biggest confrontation with the unions since the election. Page 4

Dem dry bones

Workmen have dug up a huge batch of human remains beneath the former London home of Benjamin Franklin, the father of American Independence. Page 5

The Queen cuts stylist dead

Every week Paul Burgess travelled to Buckingham Palace from his salon in Cheltenham to do the Queen's hair. Yesterday he lost a claim for unfair dismissal. He believed he had been sacked because his salon had been taken over, but a tribunal heard the Queen had asked for him to be replaced and for her involvement to be concealed to avoid offending him. Page 1

Ballerina caught out

A supposedly bedbound ballerina who was secretly filmed smashing her flat before blaming vandals was freed after admitting three charges of criminal damage and wasting police time. Page 6

On their knees

Unfair taxation is crippling small parishes, the General Synod was told. One congregation demolished their church rather than pay the VAT that would have been due on repairs. Page 8

De Niro arrested

Robert de Niro, the American actor, was detained by French police investigating an international prostitution ring believed to involve showbusiness and financial celebrities. Page 9

Cook ready to fight

Robin Cook disclosed the West's readiness to hit at President Saddam Hussein's power base as he warned the UN there could be no compromise. Page 10

Riyadh HQ plea

The US wants Saudi Arabia to allow the command headquarters for raids on Iraq to be set up near Riyadh, despite Saudi opposition to military action. Page 11

Charles in Bhutan

The Prince of Wales has joined the few visitors allowed to observe the ancient culture of the isolated Himalayan Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan. Page 12



Ruth Wilson, six, from Swansmere School in Walton-on-Thames, at the Festival Hall to play in the "Lollipop Prom" yesterday

BUSINESS

Economy: Record discounting in the winter sales helped inflation to fall sharply in January and enabled the Bank of England to hit the inflation target. Page 21

Pension: The sale of stakeholder pensions aimed at low-paid and financially unsophisticated people should not need to be regulated, insurers said. Page 21

Reuters: Peter Job, chief executive of Reuters Holdings, insisted that he had no prior knowledge of alleged improper use of information owned by Bloomberg. Page 21

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 12.4 points to close at 5613.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 104.2 to 103.4 after a fall from \$1.6340 to \$1.6243 and from DM2.9639 to DM2.9377. Page 24

SPORT

Football: Michael Owen, who is to make his full England debut against Chile at the age of 18 years and 59 days, has been breaking records all his life. Page 36

Rugby union: Kevin Yates will decide in the next week whether to appeal against his six-month ban by the RFU for biting the ear of the London Scottish flanker Simon Fenn. Page 40

Cricket: David Lloyd, the England coach, will force his players to review how they came to lose the second Test match against West Indies in Port of Spain. Page 38

Racing: The weights for the Martell Grand National are headed on 12 stone by Suny Bay, runner-up to Lord Gyllene last year and Coral's 14-1 favourite. Page 34

HOME

Home loving: Richard Cork revels in the luscious rural scenes and mastery of changing light on show in the Tate Gallery's superb Bonnard exhibition. Page 29

Euro-opera: One Brussels initiative is about to pay rich dividends when the singers are chosen for European Union Opera and rehearsals begin for the company's first season. Page 29

Low life: Veteran pop survivor Nick Lowe has shed his rock'n'roll shell and perfected a new persona that still provides a great night out. Page 30

Between the lines: The playwright Shelagh Stephenson was an RSC actress until she plucked up courage to write. Her second play opens next week. Page 31

WORLD

Pier pressure: At 15, George Robertson stood on the pier at Holy Loch shouting CND slogans; at 51, he is Defence Secretary, ready to deploy British troops in strikes against Iraq. He explains the paradox to Valerie Grove. Page 13

Civilisation: Nigella Lawson on the value society places on human life, government silence on the Salman Rushdie fatwa; why there should be no crèche in Parliament; cellulite, cream confessions. Page 13

The ring: That Don't-take-the-Princess-of-Wales, meant to marry, now seems beyond question. But did Dodi ever present the engagement ring? We continue serialising the journalistic investigation into Diana's death. Pages 14, 15

Washington is doing all it can to root out Iraq's terror weapons by peaceful means. If military force is required to ensure that UN weapons inspectors can complete that job, America deserves Arab support. Arab leaders should stand united, not against Iraq or its people, but against the crimes of its dictators. — The New York Times

Re-establishing the rule of law in Corsica requires a small revolution by a population that rarely demonstrates anger. Let us hope that the murder [of the Prefect] will have aroused a people which has too often been an accomplice of the terrorists through its respect for the law of omertà. — La Libre Belgique

Maurice Schumann, French Foreign Minister; Professor Robert Thompson, biochemist; Vic Gibbons, racing cyclist. Page 19

Freedom of speech and privacy: Winnie the Pooh; reform of the Lords; musical education; grade A doctors. Page 17



TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

FILMS Geoff Brown sees the comedy In & Out, with Joan Cusack and Kevin Kline

BOOKS Jonathan Sacks hails a history of Israel; Michèle Roberts finds forbidden fables

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,712

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 29 indicating starting positions for words.

- ACROSS
1 Speed and power associated with successful service (4).
3 Start to poke with stick? (4).
6 Inclination to hear this composer (5).
10 One performing in dodgy club needed a little bit of pride? (4-3).
11 Prison's severe critic (7).
12 Pink around opening in surface of body (9).
13 English short story about to lift one's spirits (5).
14 Hide most of the spots (6).
16 Harshness? It pays off when imprisoning monarch (8).
18 German author I encountered in border city on Rhine (8).
19 Having everyone striking with maximum effort (3-3).
22 Nothing found in search of hollow (5).
23 Powered flight (9).

A word search puzzle titled 'NERO SPINBOMLER' with a grid of letters and a list of words to find.

Table with weather conditions for various UK regions: London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Channel Islands, etc.

Table with weather by fax for various cities: London, Manchester, Birmingham, etc.

Table with World City Weather for 153 destinations worldwide.

Table with Motorway information for various roads.

Table with Car reports by fax for various car models.

Table with Hours of Darkness for various locations.

General: rain over Scotland and N Ireland heavy for a time. Drizzly in the west but eastern Scotland should brighten for a time. Drizzle over northern and western England and Wales will die away. Mild.
London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Channel Islands, etc.

Table with 24 hrs to 5 pm: bright, cloudy, drizzle, etc. for various cities.

Table with AEROABOAB for various international destinations.

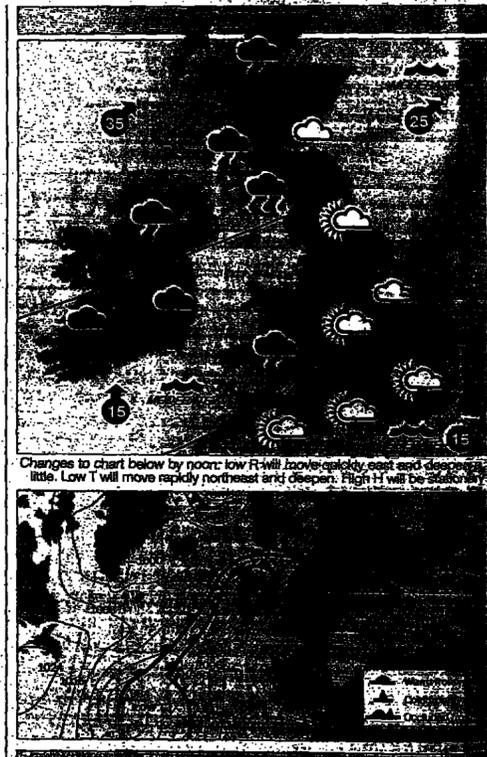


Table with TODAY AM, HT, PM, HT, TODAY for various cities.

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THE TIMES

INSIDE SECTION

2 TODAY

BUSINESS

Province grows from bombsite to business park PAGE 25

ARTS

Paul McGann is Jung and in love in a new play PAGES 29-31

SPORT

Yates maintains innocence and prepares appeal PAGES 33-40

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 38, 39

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11 1998

Job absolves Reuters board of blame

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

PETER JOB, chief executive of Reuters Holdings, insisted yesterday he had no prior knowledge of any alleged improper use of proprietary information owned by rival Bloomberg.

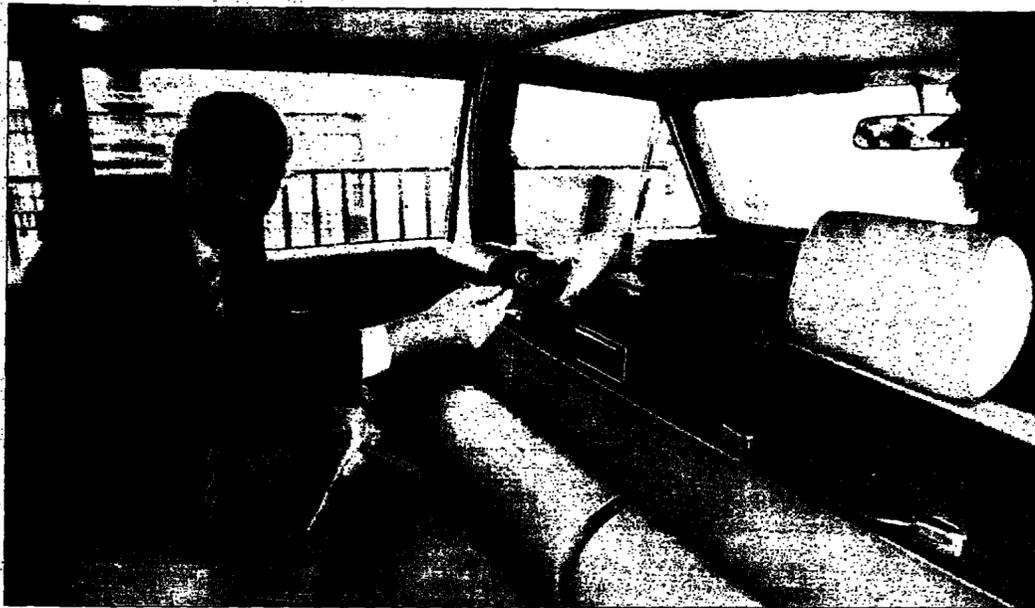
The same goes for the board, said Mr Job, speaking for the first time about the grand jury investigations into alleged behaviour at Reuters Analytics, the financial information group's US subsidiary.

Mr Job has not yet accepted that illegal behaviour actually occurred but insisted he has now made sure that none of his London main board members knew of any improper behaviour.

Reuters Analytics, a company which is involved in the development of new financial products, is not part of Reuters in the US but reports directly to John Parrell, the main board director in London responsible for financial information products.

Mr Job said that his own internal investigations into the situation of Reuters Analytics "would take a long time to complete."

Mr Job was speaking as Reuters announced a 3 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £677 million - its first drop in profit since becoming a public company.



Just for the record: Charles Koppelman, former head of EMI in North America, whose new company will extend loans to top recording artists

Koppelman helps pop stars cash in

By Chris Ayres

CHARLES KOPPELMAN, who departed abruptly as head of EMI's North American division with an estimated £30 million payoff last year, has emerged at the helm of a new venture to help rock stars cash in on the revenue generated by their back catalogue of musical hits.

Inspired by the success of the so-called Bowie bonds, a fund-raising exercise by the singer David Bowie, Mr Koppelman has formed a company called CAK Universal Credit, in partnership with Prudential Securities, which will extend loans to those who have earned more than £200,000 a year for five years from intellectual property.

Mr Koppelman, who has previously advised Frank Sinatra, would not disclose his client list, but said Sir Elton John would be an ideal candidate. Mr Koppelman said: "I would like nothing better than to securitise his income stream."

Inflation target is hit after sales discounts

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

RECORD discounting in the winter sales helped inflation to fall sharply in January and enabled the Bank of England to hit the inflation target for the first time since it gained independence.

Underlying inflation, which excludes mortgage interest payments, fell from 2.7 per cent in December to reach the Bank's 2.5 per cent target figure exactly. Headline inflation also declined from 3.6 per cent to 3.3 per cent in January as retailers cut the price of goods in the winter sales.

It is the first time underlying inflation has met the target since May last year, and will significantly ease pressure on the Bank to make any further rate increases.

The Bank today publishes its Quarterly Inflation Report

WALL STREET climbed to an all-time high as optimism grew that the Asian financial crisis would not hurt corporate earnings by as much as expected. The Dow Jones industrial average soared 139 points to reach 8,319.53 in afternoon trading.

and is expected to forecast that the economy is now on course to meet the inflation target in the medium term.

The City, which had been expecting inflation to remain stubbornly above the target level, welcomed the data with the stock market climbing back towards record levels.

The FTSE 100 closed up 12.4 at 5,613.3, compared with the record high of 5,629.7 last Friday. The market also received a late boost from a strong showing on Wall Street.

falling from 104.2 to 103.4 on its trade weighted index.

The decline in the inflation figures was led by a 3.9 per cent monthly fall in household good prices - the largest decline yet. Clothing and footwear prices also tumbled by a record amount, sliding 6.6 per cent from December.

The mild weather helped seasonal food prices to fall 0.4 per cent - the first monthly fall in January since 1972.

Economists said that unless there is a shock in the average earnings data, also released today, rates will probably rise no higher than the current level of 7.25 per cent. Simon Briscoe, director of research at Nikko Europe, said: "The return of underlying inflation to the centre of the target is symbolic of rates having peaked."

The separate Confederation of British Industry quarterly trends survey, which was also published yesterday, showed business confidence falling at its fastest rate for over two years as export orders continue to struggle under the burden of the strong pound.

Eight out of eleven UK regions reported a decline in export orders, while all regions showed export prices continuing to fall.

UK acquisition and merger activity reached record levels in the final quarter of 1997 because of the completion of the tie-up between Guinness and Grand Metropolitan. UK-to-UK mergers totalled a record £15 billion with the creation of Diageo responsible for £12.5 billion.

Nomura stops bid for Energy

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

NOMURA INTERNATIONAL pulled out of the race to buy The Energy Group yesterday, blaming price and the failure of talks trying to sell half of the business.

The sudden withdrawal of Nomura's Principal Finance Group, which is led by Guy Hands, throws the spotlight on Texas Utilities. It said last night it was still in talks with Energy, owners of the UK's Eastern Group electricity business and Peabody Coal in the US.

Energy agreed a £4.05 billion offer last week from PacificCorp, the US group, which last year cleared a

Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry. But, it kept talking to the others. Nomura's interest had surprised the City, although the Japanese firm had built a 2.21 per cent stake in the group. There were suggestions Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, would refer a bid to the MMC.

Nomura yesterday denied that regulatory concerns had forced its exit. It said talks, thought to have been with Lehman Brothers, to sell Peabody Coal, had failed. Nomura had needed to sell to justify raising its bid higher than the 765p share from PacificCorp.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES table with columns for FTSE 100, FTSE All share, Nikkei, Dow Jones, S&P Composite and their respective values and changes.

US RATE table with columns for Federal Funds, Long Bond, and Yield, with values and changes.

LONDON MONEY table with columns for 3-mth Interbank, Life long gilt, and Future (Mar), with values and changes.

STERLING table with columns for New York, London, DM, FF, SF, Yen, and £ Index, with values and changes.

DOLLAR table with columns for London, DM, FF, SF, Yen, and \$ Index, with values and changes.

NORTH SEA OIL table with columns for Brent 15-day (Apr) and London close, with values and changes.

GOLD table with columns for London close and denotes midday trading price.

Profit dip hits shares in BOC

By Paul Durman

SHARES in BOC Group, the industrial gases company, fell 66p to 905p yesterday when it reported disappointing first-quarter profits of £93.5 million, 9 per cent down on the previous year and about £10 million adrift of expectations.

BOC was hurt by weak currencies in the Asia Pacific region and particularly in Australia, but analysts were also taken aback by what the company described as the poor performance of Ohmeda, the healthcare business that is to be sold for about £640 million. Ohmeda, still struggling with its anaesthetic gas arm, saw quarterly operating profits tumble from £13 million to £5.3 million.

BNB Resources chairman goes

By George Sivel

DAVID NORMAN yesterday resigned as chairman of BNB Resources, the recruitment and training company that runs Norman Broadbent International, the executive headhunter.

His departure follows differences with the rest of the board over strategy and management and the role within the group of Norman Broadbent International, of which Mr Norman was executive chairman.

Trust us on pensions, say insurers

By Marianne Curphey and Richard Miles

STAKEHOLDER pensions aimed at the low paid should be so cheap and simple that it will not be necessary to regulate the way they are sold, the Association of British Insurers said yesterday. "We will design a product which is so simple that it is impossible to lose any of your money," said Mark Bolat, the ABI's director-general.

Large advertisement for Direct Life & Pensions. It features the headline 'PAYING TOO MUCH FOR LIFE INSURANCE?' and a table comparing monthly premiums for £100,000 and £200,000 cover across various insurance companies like Woolwich Life, Swiss Life, and Halifax Life. It also includes contact information: CALL FREE 0800 980 1998.

Threat of strike casts shadow on Korean recovery

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A MILITANT South Korean union yesterday threatened to call a general strike if the Government pushes through laws making it easier for companies to lay off workers. The move by the half-million strong Korean Confederation of Trade Unions risks undermining South Korea's attempts to restore confidence to its battered financial markets. The South Korean stock market reacted badly to the news, closing down 2.25 per cent. The won also slipped from 1,558.0 to the dollar to 1,584.0, despite other Asian currencies enjoying strong gains led by a 30 per cent rise in the Indonesian rupiah.

The KCTU said it is considering calling a general strike by the end of the week if the South Korean Parliament pushes through a tough labour reform programme. However, the larger and more moderate Federation of Korean Trade Unions said it would oppose the strike, although it gave warning that it could not stop its regional unions from launching sympathy strikes. The Government agreed a pact with business and unions — including the KCTU — last Friday to permit businesses to lay off workers without notice and rehire temporary staff. Analysts gave warning that a decision to soften the legislation could threaten the \$60 billion (£35.7 billion) International Monetary Fund rescue package.

In Indonesia, the rupiah soared from 9,700.00 to 7,400.00 after rumours that the Government is on the verge of introducing a currency board to help to stabilise its exchange rate. Steve Hanke, the US economist who is the leading proponent of currency boards, briefed the Indonesian Government last week on the scheme. The rise in Indonesia also boosted other Asian currencies to year highs. The Malaysian ringgit climbed 9 per cent to 3.60 to the dollar, while the Thai baht rose 3.5 per cent to close at 46.10 to the dollar.

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Militant workers protest against labour reforms in Seoul. A general strike would undermine efforts to restore confidence to its financial markets

BP shrugs off influence of oil prices with aid of 'self-help'

By CARL MORTSHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

JOHN BROWNE, chief executive of British Petroleum, yesterday claimed that the oil company's fortunes were no longer tied to the oil price as he revealed a fall in fourth-quarter profits.

The final three months' replacement cost net profit fell from £689 million to £636 million, hit by special factors including operational difficulties at an Alaskan refinery. However, Mr Browne said that the company had achieved a \$550 million (£336 million) boost to the year's results from "self-help" — BP's description of internally generated profit improvements — of which \$500 million related to volume gains.

BP's full-year replacement cost net profit was up from £2.6 billion to £2.8 billion and the oil company is increasing the quarterly dividend to 5.75p, making 22p for the year, a 13 per cent gain on 1997. Mr Browne said that BP had raised profits and dividend in the first two quarters of the year. However, it has revised its forecast for non-Opec pro-

duction growth of just 2 per cent, well short of forecasts of 5 per cent.

The City keenly awaits BP's new growth targets, which are expected to be revealed in eight weeks' time. Since the oil company's financial crisis in 1992, it has set profit and debt

reduction targets which have been handsomely exceeded, but the City is expecting Mr Browne to set more sophisticated efficiency goals, including working capital targets over the next five years.

BP's upstream profits fell in the fourth quarter from £31.4 million to £27.9 million after a \$4 fall in the oil price and a slow production build-up in the North Sea. Mr Browne said the production shortfall was attributable to the loss of 40,000 barrels per day after technical problems at Foinaven. BP is targeting ten new fields in the current year, with production targets of 400,000 bpd by the end of the year.

Mr Browne said that BP was expecting oil prices to remain near the bottom of a \$15 to \$20 per barrel range this year after several years of above average prices. He said: "We have to expect this reality and I am sure that the UK Government are doing the same as they review North Sea taxes in advance of the UK Budget."

Refining margins slumped in the fourth quarter to \$1.3 per barrel from \$2.3 last year, causing profits to fall from £265 million in the third quarter to £159 million in the last three months. Chemical profits were marginally up at £110 million in the final quarter.

According to the IEA, year end stocks were higher than in any year over the last two decades, except 1994. The cut in non-Opec supply

ducers, cutting it back by 500,000 barrels per day.

The organisation's statistics are highly influential but critics have noted its failure to spot the effect of strikes and technical problems which have plagued oil companies over the past year. In a letter accompanying its monthly report, the IEA said: "We have been working steadily to improve our techniques, seeking out those factors which tend to depress supply."

The cut in non-Opec supply

estimates reflected a tight upstream environment with drillers and contractors operating close to full capacity.

The IEA is forecasting global oil demand of 75.3 million barrels per day, a slow-down in growth to 2.3 per cent compared with 2.6 per cent last year and after a surge of 2.7 per cent in the final quarter of 1997.

According to the IEA, year end stocks were higher than in any year over the last two decades, except 1994.

Tempus, page 24

Energy agency forecasts worldwide oversupply

THE International Energy Agency is forecasting a large oversupply of oil in 1998, but the organisation has admitted that it consistently overestimated non-Opec oil production for the past two years (Carl Mortshed writes).

The IEA said that Iraqi exports, increased Opec production and growing non-Opec oil output will mean that supply will exceed demand in the first two quarters of the year. However, it has revised its forecast for non-Opec pro-

duction of just 2 per cent, well short of forecasts of 5 per cent.

The cut in non-Opec supply

Clean coal research in danger

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RESEARCH into cleaning up coal — a programme vaunted by the Government as a way to help the troubled industry — is in danger of collapsing because state cash is about to run out.

The Government will be warned by MPs next month that there is an urgent need to put up more money for the development of clean-coal technology. Government funding is due to finish next month. The issue will be highlighted in the Trade and Industry Committee's report into coal.

Companies involved in the projects are believed to have complained that without fresh government commitment they cannot justify to shareholders pumping more of their own money into the schemes.

Last week John Battie, the Energy Minister, told the Coal Industry Society that £4 million had been spent on clean-coal technology this year by the Government. But he didn't say that a figure for the next financial year had yet to be set.

A large clean-coal project between RJB Mining, National Power and Texaco has yet to get off the ground because the partners will not move without state support.

Help small businesses says Turner

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ALDAIR TURNER last night warned the Chancellor that the proposed Corporation Tax reforms could hamper the growth rate of smaller firms and damage the economy.

The director-general of the Confederation of British Industry told a 31 seminar in London that Gordon Brown's decision to abolish advance corporation tax would hit the cashflow of small and medium-sized companies.

"It would not be very modern, or sensible, to implement changes in a way which would damage the cashflow and the investment intentions of the very-growing medium sized companies on which the health of the economy increasingly depends," he said.

The Chancellor should increase the threshold where companies are exempt from bringing forward corporation tax payments, he said, adding that he believed the Treasury is receptive to the idea.

The CBI is asking the Government to modernise the tax regime for SMEs, with an R&D tax credit to foster investment and a two-tier capital gains tax to encourage investors to hold shares more than three years.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

UB shake-up after Australian sale

UNITED BISCUITS is reorganising into two divisions after the sale of its Australian snacks business. UB's worldwide biscuit operations will become a single division, known as McVitie's Group, with a turnover of about £1 billion in 1998. It will be chaired by Eric Nicol, the UB chief executive. The other division will be comprised of UB's UK businesses, including McVitie's UK, with a 1998 turnover of about £700 million. Its products range from KP nuts and crisps to Linda McCartney vegetarian foods. Malcolm Little, the current UK chief executive will take the same role in the new grouping.

A spokesman denied the move was a prelude to a demerger but followed the disposal of Smiths Snack Food in Australia last November. "The group has been managed on a regional basis and that is less relevant today," United sold Keebler, its US snack operation, in 1995. UB shares, which have performed poorly since reaching 434p in 1993, rose slightly to 260p from 259p yesterday. Commentary, page 23

Boeing pegs provision

BOEING, the US aerospace company, said yesterday it was unlikely to make further provisions against the \$16 billion (£9.5 billion) acquisition of rival McDonnell Douglas. Last month Boeing announced it had to set aside an exceptional provision of \$1.4 billion to cover the costs connected with the takeover. Boeing also said it had overcome production problems that forced it to reorganise its output of 747 and 737 aircraft to cope with a surge in orders.

Pound hurts Domecq

ALLIED DOMEQ, the drinks group, expects the strength of sterling to drag its first-half profits "marginally" below the earnings of the same half last year. Sir Christopher Hogg, the chairman, said Allied's Asian markets were being adversely affected by reduced consumer confidence and by currency weaknesses but the impact "was not material in the context of overall group results". He did not refer to the company's speculated merger with Seagram. Allied's Canadian rival,

Laughton buys Cork

LAUGHTON Rainsfords, the personal care products group, has acquired Thomas Cork for £32.5 million. Thomas Cork sources, distributes and manages the in-store displays of household goods, pet accessories, baby and haircare products, stationery and books. Laughton Rainsfords was subject to a management buyout in January 1997. The enlarged group will have 2,000 employees and proforma turnover and pre-tax profit of £108 million and £10 million respectively in 1998.

Swiss defend merger

THE Swiss Foreign Ministry has defended the merger of UBS and SBC Warburg against attacks from Alfonso D'Amato, the New York senator behind the Nazi gold investigation. The ministry's Second World War taskforce said Mr D'Amato should not interfere in the banks' corporate affairs. He wants to halt the merger until any guilt over Nazi gold had been determined. Banking analysts said US animosity could undermine the merged bank's ability to conduct business in America.

Porvair splits top jobs

PORVAIR, the specialist materials supplier, has split the roles of its chairman and chief executive John Morgan by appointing Ben Stocks, a former director of Carnaud Metal Box, as chief executive. The group reported a pre-tax profit of £6.86 million for the year to end November, up from £4.15 million. Earnings rose from 11p to 18p out of which the full year dividend rises from 5.6p to 6.2p after payment of a 4.1p final, up from 3.7p.

Stanford's loss grows

STANFORD ROKK, the drug development company that disappointed with its tuberculosis treatment last year, said that it has promising interim results from a 28-patient lung cancer trial with the treatment. The company said that chemotherapy patients who also received its SRL 172 showed better responses and improved survival. Stanford Rook, which has cash of £5.1 million, was reporting annual losses almost doubled to £1.8 million, from £965,000, after increased research spending.

Australian acquisition

PHOTOBITION Group, the graphics and media services supplier, has made its first foray into the Australian market with a £2.7 million acquisition of Flash Graphics, based in Sydney. Eddie Marchbanks, chairman and chief executive of Photobition, said: "Flash Graphics already has a good client list, but the potential for its products in the 2000 Olympics is significant." In the six months to December 31, 1997, Flash recorded after tax profits of A\$664,415 (£271,000).

Inn Business ahead

INN BUSINESS GROUP, which operates 473 pubs, lifted pre-tax profits to £6.3 million from £2.2 million in the year to November 30. Earnings per share increased 29 per cent to 7.17p. A final dividend of 1.25p makes a total of 1.875p (1.55p) for the year. Sales more than doubled to £32.5 million (£15.1 million). Alan Jackson, executive chairman, said acquisitions would be made on a "selective" basis as property prices continued to rise, with expansion focused on the South.

PowderJect green light

SHARES in PowderJect Pharmaceuticals rose 9 1/2p to 232p after the company said it had received the US go-ahead to test its supersonic drug "gun" with lidocaine, the world's biggest-selling local anaesthetic. The PowderJect device is intended to enable doctors to administer drugs without having to give patients an injection. A small phase 1 study with lidocaine will begin later this month. Shares in Chiroscience, PowderJect's development partner, also rose 2p to 261 1/2p.

Phibro and Buffett will not face silver price charges

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

PHIBRO, the commodities unit of Salomon Smith Barney, is set to escape prosecution over an alleged manipulation of the silver market. A possible prosecution of Warren Buffett, the billionaire investor, is also to be abandoned.

Lawyers for Kerry Searle, a Canadian options trader who lost \$164,000 when silver prices rose 70 per cent over the last six months, said the Phibro suit is likely to be dropped.

Phibro is believed to have been the broker behind the

purchase of 130 million ounces of silver by Mr Buffett. He has made a paper profit of about \$400 million.

Christopher Lovell, Mr Searle's lawyer, confirmed that Mr Buffett and Berkshire Hathaway, his investment company, were being investigated with Phibro.

Mr Lovell said the investigation and efforts to prosecute will be stopped once information promised by Phibro has been forwarded. The New York lawyer said: "Phibro has been providing, on a wholly voluntary basis, information

to plaintiffs which is contrary to the allegations about Phibro contained in the complaint."

Phibro said it was not revealing any sensitive client information and it would not pay any of Mr Searle's costs.

Phibro and the other previously unnamed parties had been accused of conspiring to raise prices by moving silver out of warehouses monitored by Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange and into bullion houses in London where inventories are not publicly reported.

TOMORROW'S STOCKS

Stock	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.46	2.46
Austria Sch	1.25	1.25
Belgium Fr	63.82	63.82
Canada \$	2.449	2.391
Cyprus Cyp	0.307	0.288
Denmark Kr	11.80	10.31
France F	6.47	6.72
Germany DM	3.10	2.88
Guinea G	491	450
Hong Kong	12.40	12.20
Ireland I	1.29	1.09
Italy Lit	1.28	1.14
Japan Yen	125.8	125.8
Netherlands Gld	0.678	0.678
New Zealand \$	3.008	3.011
Norway Kr	2.91	2.88
Portugal Esc	12.88	11.92
Spain Ptas	313.03	291.00
Sweden Kr	8.71	8.71
Switzerland Fr	28.93	28.93
Turkey Lira	15.99	12.89
USA \$	2.63	2.63
UK £	388.00	348.00
USA \$	1.731	1.599

THE TIMES

A cure for bronchitis.

In the world of complementary medicine, chilies are the hot new treatment for bronchitis. Find out more in Healing, six free guides to complementary medicine. Part two only in The Times, this Saturday.

http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

Exactly a year ago, the Stock Exchange suspended trading in the shares of Lanica Trust. For a brief spell, investors appeared to believe that youthful Andrew Regan had discovered the secret of alchemy. They drove shares in his Lanica from little more than £1 to £19.50, before the Exchange called a halt. At that level, Lanica was valued at close to £100 million.

Just how illusory that figure was could soon become clear, for there are signs that Lanica's state of suspended animation may be about to end, with a reversal into another quoted company. Then the Lanica value will surely plummet as fast as a theatrical Peter Pan with his wires cut. Mr Regan will feel the bump, since he and his business partner, David Lyons, control a majority of the shares, but a few institutions who should have known better will wince to see the full extent of their misplaced optimism crystallised.

That 31-year-old Regan planned a £1.2 billion break-up bid for the Co-op has now been consigned to the realms of myths and legends. The idea was sound but its execution disastrous. His attack spurred the organisation into a more impressive bout of activity than it had staged for decades yet it was not the Co-op that won the fight but Mr Regan who lost it, with a display of

Lanica heads for bumpy landing

disdain for conventional takeover mores which left most of the City reeling and Hambros' reputation in shreds.

Andrew Regan has kept his head down since the excitement of his phantom bid last April. The legal repercussions of his use of confidential information had to be negotiated and still to be concluded is the potentially embarrassing matter of a Serious Fraud Office investigation into one of his earlier deals with the Co-op.

But the company formed to make the Co-op bid was Galileo, not Lanica, theoretically at least an investment trust rather than a corporate raider. That categorisation now seems totally misconceived, since being a passive investor, as investment trusts should be, is hardly Mr Regan's style. Lanica was intended as a deal doer, as evidenced by its attempted joint venture with the Naza. Regan had hopes of this turning a last profit but in October he pulled out. With some chutzpah, he intimated that the deal had been wrecked by the bad publicity being heaped upon Lanica. No hint of mea culpa there.

Since then, the Stock Exchange and the company have left shareholders to wonder whether Lanica was all a dream turned nightmare. Suspensions lasting this long are rare: Costain was in limbo for almost exactly a year and Lanica shareholders will find little comfort in the fact that, after being suspended at 46p, Costain shares currently hover around 30p.

Disunited biscuits

When Colin Short arrived as chairman of United Biscuits, replacing the avuncular Sir Robert Clark, the betting was that chief executive Eric Nicoli might find his job security crumbling. But that was two and a half years ago, and Nicoli is still in place. Which is more than can be said for much

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

of UB. Yesterday, the company moved closer to total dismemberment by splitting itself into two divisions: much more easily digestible that way. Optimistic investors are hoping that, in a market with an appetite for mergers, major players in the food business will find the divided UB irresistible.

While much of Nicoli's reign seems to have been devoted to pulling UB out of areas where it proved unequal to the vicious competition that characterises the snacks business worldwide, there are a few tantalising smells which might attract a bidder's attention. Linda McCartney's vegetarian range apparently has sufficient devotees to indicate that it may be her thinking on nutrition rather than her family's other activities that are winning the custom. In similar vein, the Go Ahead! range of biscuits and

cakes for calorie counters appears to be filling a gap where Mr Kipling may not enter for fear of encountering the fat police.

But, as dieters know, the figures speak the truth, and while UB profits weighed in at £162 million in 1997, they have shrunk horribly since then.

Nicoli struggled long to sort out the problem of Keebler in the United States, not of his making, admittedly, but many critics felt that a sharper touch would have curtailed the pain. His study of nuclear physics had clearly not equipped him for a world in which free cardboard discs, known as Tazos, could make Walkers a dominant force in the Australian crisp business. Nicoli described the Tazos as "the commercial equivalent of a nuclear attack", and last year admitted that it had him beaten, selling UB's Smiths Snacks and

Crisps business in Australia, having only bought it in 1993. Mr Short, who took over at UB with a reputation for being a tough leader, may have decided that his chief executive has no option but to give in to stronger competition.

Profits lag behind share prices

No news has been good news for share prices. As the main profit-reporting season for big companies builds up, the cheer of recent weeks might prove harder to sustain.

Yesterday, British Petroleum, Unilever and Reuters all reported flat sales and stagnant or falling historic profits for 1997. BOC offered only disappointment for the last quarter of 1997, with more trade gloom to follow.

At BP, optimism could at least claim a profit rise of 7 per cent, at replacement cost excluding routine "exceptional" costs. That is, however, the minimum analysis expected to justify today's share prices. The FTSE 100 share index values the average big company

at 21 times latest earnings. That implies either that earnings will grow at a cracking pace or that we are returning to the cheap money era of 50 years ago.

The latest inflation figures have reassured the exchanges that even the Bank of England committee is unlikely to put base rates up further, but a short-term real rate of interest of 4½ per cent is hardly giving the stuff away.

Flat 1997 profits may be written off as a one-off slip, caused mainly by the pound becoming stronger. Barclays and NatWest apart, the banking and finance sector should record much juicier returns. But 1998 promises to be just as disappointingly exceptional. Watch out for warnings about the impact of the Asian crisis, slower UK growth and cheap imports to start with.

Head lost

DAVID NORMAN's long-overdue departure from BNB Resources does not resolve the crucial problem for shareholders in a company that should never have gone public. The partners in the head-hunting division (which included Norman) keep half the proceeds of their efforts before outsiders get a look in. As a recruitment expert, Norman believed that was the only way to win the top staff. Even on those terms, he failed to keep them.

Unilever poised for clearout of poor performers

BY FRASER NELSON

NIALL FITZGERALD, chairman of Unilever, is to sell or close down businesses generating £2 billion of group sales unless they show a marked recovery in profits within the next 12 months.

Elizabeth Arden, the perfume concern bought nine years ago for \$885 million, is expected to be one of the first casualties of Mr FitzGerald's restructuring programme if Bob Phillips, its manager, fails to achieve a turnaround.

Other disposals are expected to come from a range of low-profit overseas companies as the group moves towards its target areas of tea, laundry powder and skincare products.

Mr FitzGerald said that a range of Unilever subsidiaries, which generate 6.5 per cent of group sales, are now on their last warning — but he declined

to identify them. He added: "We have put others on notice that if they do not perform to standards, then they will go. This is a three-year programme started in 1996. Anything that falls outside our priority categories is suspect."

His comments came as the company met City expectations by reporting 1997 profits of £3.23 billion before tax and the £2.97 billion profit from selling its chemicals division.

Unilever's Eastern and Central Europe businesses provided the star performance, with profits up by 30 per cent. Unilever now sells more margarine in Russia than in France after sales of Rama, the equivalent of Flora, rose to 100,000 tonnes a year.

Mr FitzGerald said that the company has so far emerged unscathed from economic turmoil in the Far East, where it

generates 13 per cent of group profits.

He said: "I don't think the problem is as serious as many people say. It is a necessary correction of unbalanced economic growth. We will keep focused on the essentials and run our business tightly."

"We see this, if anything, as an opportunity in the medium term. It may be that some businesses that we have found attractive may become available."

At the start of 1997, a fifth of the entire group was marked in danger of being closed or sold. Half of the "hit-list" businesses have since gone. A few were saved after achieving a financial recovery.

Overall, earnings per share doubled to 44.5p. The total dividend rises to 8.42p (8.01p) with a final 5.62p due on May 22.

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Intrum Justitia goes private in £126m deal

BY RICHARD MILES

INTRUM JUSTITIA, the debt collection agency, has been sold for £126 million to Bo Goranson, its chairman, and a team of Swedish venture capitalists.

Mr Goranson and Industri Kapital have agreed to pay 120p per share, representing a

63 per cent premium to the 73½p closing share price on November 7 when the company disclosed it was in preliminary takeover talks.

Industri Kapital will take a 52 per cent stake in a new holding company, dubbed Collector, while Mr Goranson will hold 48 per cent through his company Synergy. Mr

Goranson currently controls 34 per cent of Intrum Justitia.

The deal has been approved by the four shareholders who control 83.5 per cent of the company: Mr Goranson, United News & Media, Fidelity and PDFM. Intrum Justitia, the largest debt collection agency in Europe, said it expected to report pre-tax

profits for 1997 of about £10 million, significantly below market expectations. At the half-year, it reported a 33 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £5.5 million.

Launched in 1990 at 81p, Intrum shares peaked within a few years at 125p before falling back to the 75p mark for the rest of the decade. Manage-

ment blamed the poor share performance on a lack of liquidity and difficult markets. Frederick Chiswell, an independent director, said analysts had never liked Intrum being registered in the Dutch Antilles. The Industri Kapital deal will take the company into private ownership.

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Ionica may have to renegotiate £300m credit line

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

IONICA, the troubled wireless telephony company, yesterday admitted that it may have to renegotiate a £300 million credit facility before it can draw down financing for network development next year.

The company, which is behind schedule in developing its network because of software delays and capacity constraints, said that it believed that the operating covenants of the credit facility will have to be renegotiated as a result.

It said: "The company will continue to work with its advisers, the arranging banks and other potential providers of finance to put in place funding for 1999 and beyond." Ionica said that it had opened talks with banks on finance for 1999, but was required to state that "there can be no assurance... that such funding will be available to the company on acceptable terms if at all".

Reporting quarterly financial results yesterday, Ionica



Playford: gave up control

said that retained losses for the three months to December 31 had reached £34.8 million.

Losses for the nine months to December 31 were £112 million. Ionica said it is optimistic about receiving the necessary funding.

Ionica shares, which were 42p last July, fell 5p to 78½p yesterday. Nigel Playford, founder of Ionica, last month gave up executive control of it after the share price plunged. He became deputy chairman to concentrate on strategy.

Amstrad hopes for TV order

BY JASON NISSÉ

AMSTRAD is pinning its hopes on winning a big follow-up order from British Interactive Broadcasting (BIB), the digital television venture, after securing a deal to supply a quarter of its initial order of set-top boxes.

The group, which changed its name from Betacom after Alan Sugar took over as chairman last year, said yesterday that it had a good relationship with BSkyB, the satellite TV company that is a partner in BIB and is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times.

Mr Sugar has reorganised the group since taking control, moving its headquarters and setting up a research and development operation.

All this brought an £888,000 exceptional charge, plunging Amstrad into a £579,000 pre-tax loss in the half year to December 31, from a £1.26 million profit last time. The loss per share was 1.14p, against 1.62p earnings. An unchanged 0.2p dividend is due on February 20. The shares fell 1½p to 30½p.

Tempus, page 24

Zetters in line for reverse bid by mystery company

BY CHRIS AYRES

A PRIVATE company looking for a reverse takeover last night emerged as the leading bidder for Zetters, the pools and bingo group.

Last month Zetters said it had received a bid from a private investor. Two other rival bidders have now emerged, one a private company in search of a stock market listing.

Paul Zetter, chairman of Zetters, said: "I like the people and the management structure would fit well." They had roughly agreed on terms but any possible deal would not

come until at least May. Mr Zetter is expected to stay with the company in a part-time role.

Zetters yesterday reported an 80 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the nine months to December 31 from £556,000 to £1.5 million. Turnover rose by 14 per cent from £11.6 million to £13.3 million.

The company said that sales at its pools division had continued to fall — in spite of operating one of the country's only successful Internet gambling sites — although profits had stabilised. A cost-cutting

programme is still under way. However, the Zetters bingo division enjoyed a leap in profits and sales. "In some ways, the success we've made of the bingo and the turning around of the pools business has made us a victim," said Mr Zetter. "A deal I would have accepted a year ago I would not accept now."

Shares in Zetters fell 2p to 134½p, after a high of 156½p when bid talks were announced. Before the talks the shares traded at only 91p after the company was affected by the National Lottery.

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OfTel chief predicts telecoms and software mergers

DON CRUICKSHANK, the telecoms regulator, has predicted a wave of mergers between software developers and telecoms companies, such as the rumoured takeover of British Telecom by Microsoft.

Mr Cruickshank, who is to stand down as Director-General of the Office of Telecommunications (OfTel) in April, told a meeting of industry representatives at King's College London: "I think such mergers are almost inevitable. I wouldn't be surprised if, over the next few years, some of the major players in the UK were to link with software providers."

There is widespread fear in the industry that telephone networks could be bought out by so-called "content providers" — companies that provide Internet information services, such as Microsoft. Such alliances will become more logical as television, radio and

Internet services merge over coming years.

Shares in British Telecom surged last month when rumourers swept the City that the company was in takeover talks with Microsoft, headed by Bill Gates. However, Mr Gates later said that he was not interested in moving into the telecoms business.

Mr Cruickshank, when asked whether the European Union would have the power to block such a deal, said: "That's why this debate is crucial. The control of information and entertainment is capable of being divided by companies which are not, historically, caught by telecoms regulation."

"A significant part of OfTel's resources should be deployed to getting this right. It is not adequate and not acting in consumers' interests at the moment. The new regulatory framework is likely to come

from Brussels. Nevertheless, it is important that the UK gets on with its own debate. There are great opportunities if we get the regulation right."

Mr Cruickshank was criticised at the meeting for failing to bring about a reduction in the price of calls on mobile phones. He replied: "That is a point of view with which I have great sympathy — one disappointment of my five years at OfTel is the way that competition has not developed."

His comments came as the European Commission launched an investigation into the cost of mobile phone calls in Britain and the rest of the EU. All mobile network operators in the 15 member countries have been asked to submit details of their tariffs to the Commission.

The Commission said: "If we find that certain charges are not directly cost-related, then we will intervene."

Nationwide sights set on the Internet

NATIONWIDE Building Society plans to become an Internet services provider. The Nationwide says the new service is to be launched in the summer and will give secure electronic access to bank accounts, as well as the usual Internet services.

Brian Davis, chief executive of the society, will create the service with BT, which will provide much of the technology. Users will have online banking, Web and newsgroup access, five e-mail addresses per household, Web space and a 24-hour helpline. Users will need to have a Nationwide account to get connected.

The society said: "A growing number of people will want to use their personal computers for banking, and ultimately their television sets."



In the picture: Brian Davis will create the Nationwide's new service with BT

Silverdale colliery set to close

MORE than 500 miners are poised to lose their jobs with the closure of a colliery this year. Directors at Midlands Mining say that operations are likely to cease at Silverdale Mine in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, in nine months' time.

Up to 337 workers could be made redundant, although the company hopes to relocate some to a colliery in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

The company said that the mine had geological problems that had wiped out quality coal reserves. Efforts would continue to find a solution but directors had taken the "preliminary view" to close the pit in September.

The company added: "It is likely that over the coming months... there will be a gradual reduction in the workforce up to the cessation of coal production late in 1998."

The mine is owned by the Coal Authority and Midlands Mining has been asked to advertise it to seek another purchaser.

Peptide joins research venture

PEPTIDE THERAPEUTICS, the pharmaceutical company, has entered a research collaboration with the Medical Research Council at St Bartholomew's and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry.

The company and the MRC

are to work towards the development of novel antibacterial compounds based on the inhibition of bacterial enzymes known as proteases.

Potential targets include enzymes generated by bacteria involved in periodontal disease, cystic fibrosis and the emerging antibiotic resistant

scheme and Peptide has negotiated an exclusive licence to all the intellectual property generated from the project.

Potential targets include enzymes generated by bacteria involved in periodontal disease, cystic fibrosis and the emerging antibiotic resistant

forms of staphylococcus. MRC scientists will identify target processes from bacteria involved in such diseases. Peptide will then apply its proprietary rapid technology to design inhibitors to these enzymes and investigate their therapeutic application.

Task force draws up PFI project priority list

THE "task force" responsible for sorting out the private finance initiative (PFI) has drawn up a priority list of 50 projects, with a capital cost estimated at £8 billion, that it wants to encourage.

The PFI was designed by the last Government as a way of attracting private money to public projects, but critics said it was complex and expensive.

Under Tony Blair, efforts have been focused on pushing forward more pressing projects. A task force drawn from industry was appointed by the Treasury to assist.

The 50 projects on its priority list have some way to go before a contract could be awarded. They are deemed important because of their size, high profile, ability to be replicated or their ground-breaking nature.

They include the Channel Tunnel rail link and proposals to build and refurbish schools in Glasgow and Stoke using a single contractor in each case.

They also include the £200 million merger of two sites at GCHQ, the £180 million refurbishment of the main Ministry of Defence building, 11 hospital projects, and wider private sector involvement with London Underground.

Geoffrey Robinson, Pymaster General, said an announcement on London Underground should be made in the next couple of weeks.

Chieftain offers itself for sale

Chieftain, the building materials group, put itself up for sale yesterday and said it was approaching a number of interested parties. The shares rose 12½p to 117½p valuing the company at £10.1 million.

Chieftain said it has experienced strong growth over the last two years but believes its full potential can best be realised by a larger partner bringing in extra resources.

Care homes

Nursing Home Properties has acquired 17 nursing homes for £33 million from five different operators. Richard Elbert, chief executive, said: "The demand for sale and leaseback of care homes continues to increase and with 5,942 beds and 104 care homes in its ownership, NHP's prospects for growth remain excellent." The shares were unchanged at 134½p.

Intelligent choice

Shares in Intelligent Environments, the private Internet company, rose from 24½p to 34p yesterday after the group revealed that it had been chosen by BT to work with its Internet Complete Service. In a trading statement the company reckoned it lost £1 million in the second half — against £2.1 million of losses in the first half.

Building starts

Bilton, the property group, is starting construction on a £6.1 million pre-let retail motor park development on the company's seven-acre freehold site at Portsmouth Business Park. The development, which will produce a combined initial rent of £800,000 a year, is to be completed in November.

Dealers deal

Pendragon, the motor dealer, has bought two BMW dealerships from HMG Holdings for £7.6 million. The sites are in Slough and Maidenhead and have net assets of £5.6 million. They earned pre-tax profits of £1.4 million in the year to December 31.



Robinson: announcement

French costs rise over 35-hour week

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

FRENCH businesses face a sharp rise in costs under the country's new law to cut the working week to 35 hours with no loss of pay.

British firms with interests in France, such as Marks & Spencer, GEC, and British Aerospace, will be among those affected. Most companies must comply by the year 2000, although those with fewer than 20 staff have until 2002.

The French Government says the law could create up to 540,000 jobs as firms take on new staff to compensate for shorter hours.

But the employers' federation, the Confédération Nationale du Patronat Français, says the law will add to the 12.4 per cent unemployment rate by undermining productivity.

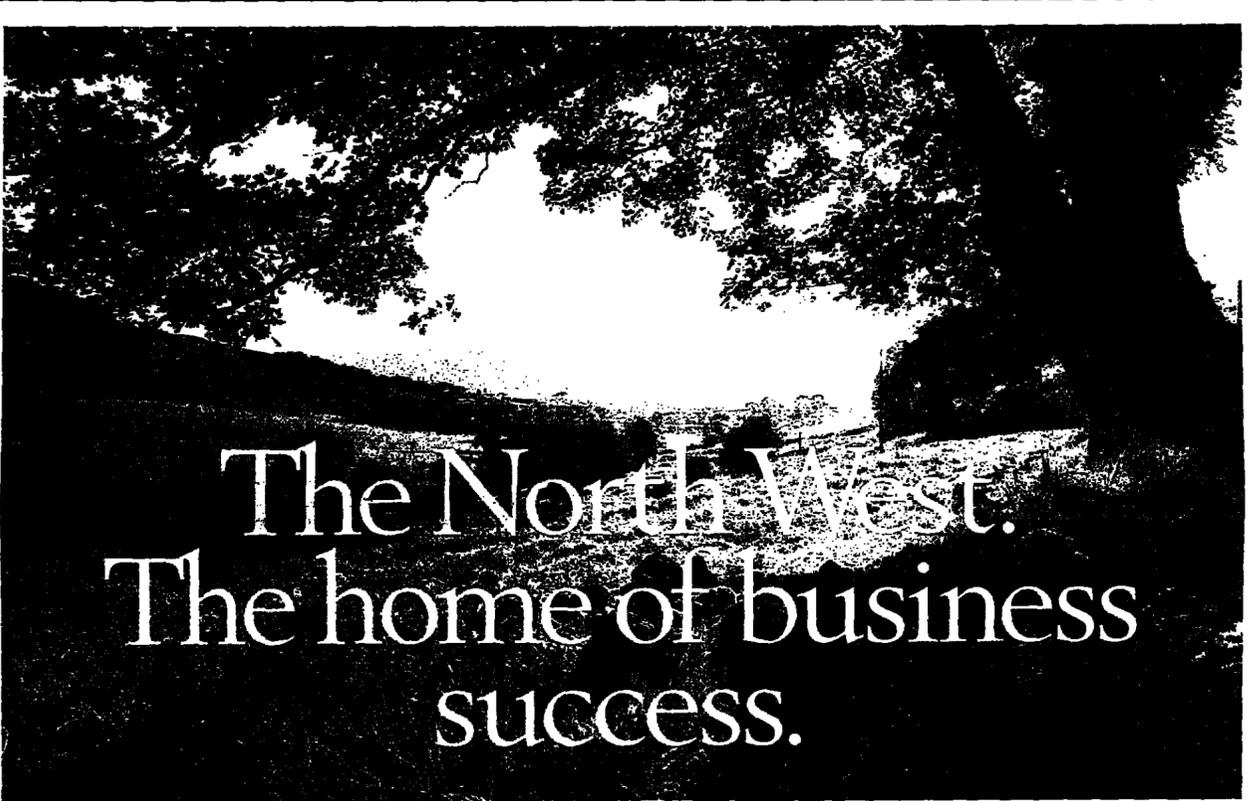
The CNPS says the measure will increase costs by up to 11.4

per cent at a time when other countries want to reduce the burden on business. Critics point out the French already work less than employees in Germany, the US, Japan, or Britain.

The Government hopes to overcome any opposition by offering business leaders up to Fr13,000 (£1,300) a year for every job created under the new law.

Aware that its plan has aroused widespread scepticism in the international business community, the economy ministry stresses the need for a negotiated reduction in working time, and say the law will eventually lead to greater "suppleness" (the word "flexibility" is taboo) across a notoriously rigid jobs market.

But opponents say the gulf between employers and unions is such that negotiations are certain to flounder.



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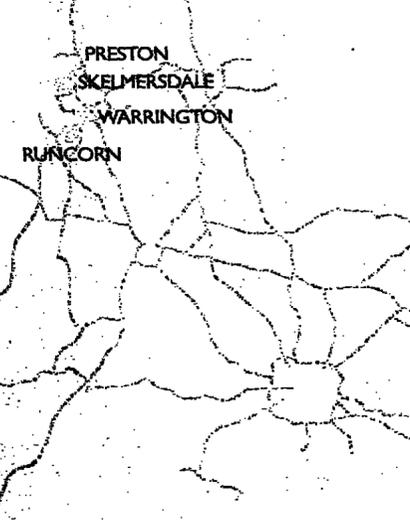
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TIMES UNIT TRUST INDEX

Main table containing unit trust prices with columns for fund name, price, and change. Includes sub-sections for various fund categories like Global, Equity, and Bond.

Advertisement for De Beers diamonds featuring the text 'Forget the roses on Valentine's Day. Give her a forget-me-not.' and the De Beers logo.

Arabic text at the bottom of the page: 'سكوا من الامم'.

Visions of domestic bliss

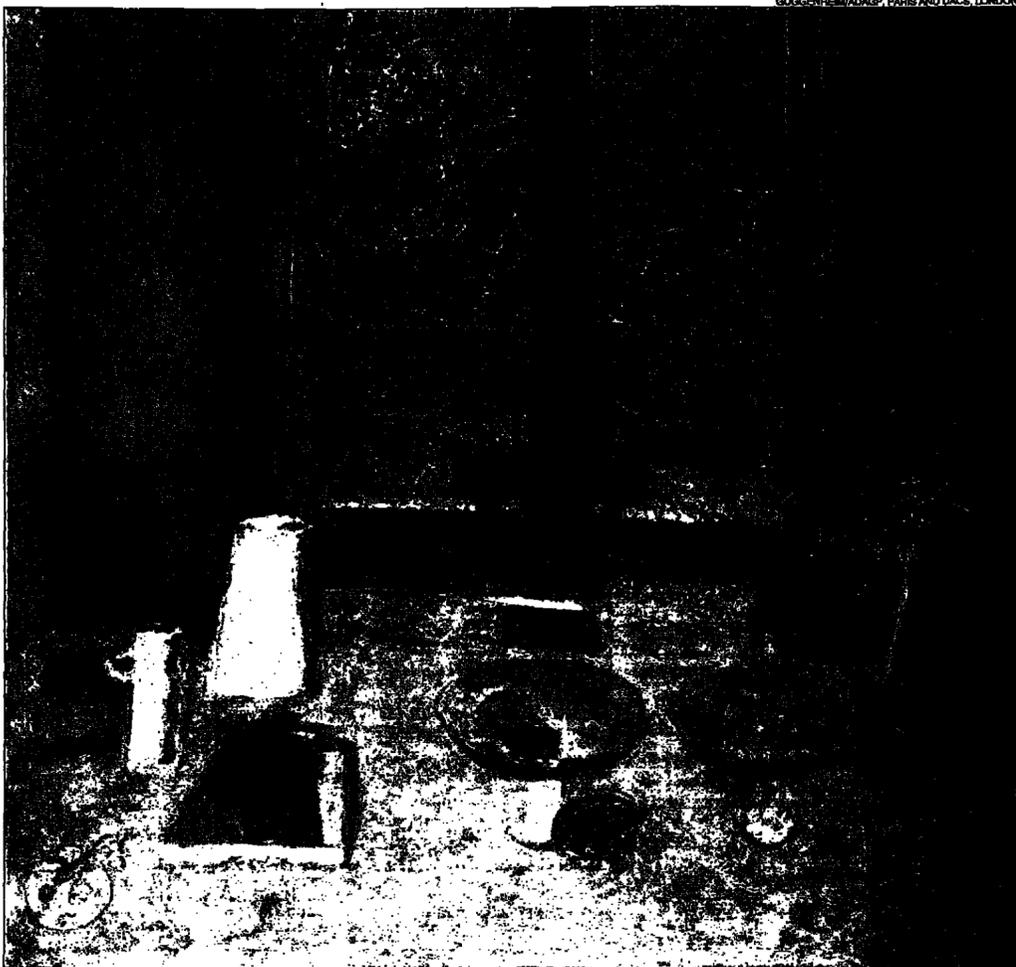
Richard Cork
revels in the
luscious rural
scenes on show
in the Tate's
superb Bonnard
exhibition

Defying the trauma of two world wars, Pierre Bonnard refused to be deflected from his own sun-dappled Mediterranean idyll. In 1916, at the height of the Somme offensive, he stubbornly embarked on a large canvas called *The Earthly Paradise*. Its two naked figures seem overcome by wonder as they gaze at the burgeoning fertility of the countryside. They may represent Adam and Eve before the Fall, and the approaching sunset presages darkness. But Bonnard savours the richness of a landscape where a female nude reclines beside a peacock and a monkey in a flower-filled Eden.

As the Tate Gallery's captivating exhibition proves, Bonnard never lost sight of this delectable vision. He explored it throughout his long career, concentrating mostly on his domestic surroundings. The "earthly paradise" was usually to be found, not in an outdoor panorama, but in his own house. Windows provide views of seductive locales beyond. In *Large Dining Room Overlooking the Garden* a shadowy figure is not allowed to obstruct the expanse of magical blue sky pulsating beyond the glass. But Bonnard prefers to linger at the dining table, among the fruit and crockery laid out so enticingly on the cloth.

Once he had bought Le Bosquet, the hillside villa above Cannes where he remained until his death in 1947, his attachment to an enclosed world grew stronger still. Most of the space in one magisterial painting is devoted to a plain white room, apart from a slice of palm-bedecked, gaudy vegetation glimpsed beyond the balcony. The distant Côte d'Azur looks so intoxicating that it would be tempting to see Bonnard as a man forever trapped, yearning to escape. But the truth is that he was nourished by the solitude in Le Bosquet, and never tired of revealing how its interiors were transformed by the all-pervasive light.

The central drama of the Tate's survey, triumphantly organised by Sarah Whitfield, lies in Bonnard's gradual discovery of the sun's awesome intensity. The first room is subdued, staying close to dimly illuminated family dining rituals. The young Bonnard rejoices in flat, exuberantly decorative surfaces. He was



Large Dining Room Overlooking the Garden: Bonnard was nourished by the solitude inside his house, and fascinated by the changing light

identified in the 1890s with the Nabis, a group of adventurous painters who saw themselves as "prophets" of a new art rooted in daily life. *The Croquet Game*, his most ambitious painting from this early period, ventures into the garden. But dusk approaches, making figures and foliage merge in a crepuscular haze.

In the second room, though, Bonnard begins to relish the true potency of light. He tackles larger canvases and becomes brazenly erotic. In the unbridled *Indolence* a young woman sprawls invitingly on a mattress. Although the rear side of her slender body is enveloped in shadow, the other half is invaded by a radiant warmth. It blazes from the creased sheets beyond, as if they had been set on fire by her animal heat.

The model for *Indolence* was Marthe, whom Bonnard

had met in a Parisian flower-shop. She became his lifelong companion, and her unself-conscious presence ensured that his finest pictures invariably celebrate the female nude. A revelatory moment occurs in 1908, when he painted Marthe in a bathroom. Naked apart from a pair of slippers, she seems arrested in the act of turning towards a grand window. The sun rushes in, turning the gossamer curtain into an excitable mass of undulating brushstrokes. Marthe seems to reel back from its impact. But there is a sexual frisson in this encounter, and her glowing flesh emanates wellbeing.

Bonnard's art is associated above all with this sense of boundless pleasure. And for another decade, his pictures did indeed celebrate rural France as a land of irresistible delight. By 1920, though, a more ominous mood is asserted. In a wildly hued self-portrait Bonnard depicts himself as a bearded faun, hungry and furious. He had recently met Renée Monchaty, his model and then his lover. In a strange, overheated painting of 1923 her fiery-cheeked face is equated with the peach-

es smouldering in a nearby dish. Marthe is included only as an incidental head, half sliced-off by the canvas edge.

The following year Renée committed suicide in a Paris hotel, leaving Marthe once more at the centre of the household. But Bonnard was

« Above all, Bonnard's art is about boundless pleasure »

profoundly distressed by the tragedy, and his subsequent paintings of Marthe became more perturbing. Never robust, she suffered from a persistent tubercular condition and grew increasingly antisocial with age.

In a 1925 painting she is stretched out in the bath like a corpse. Only the lower half of her body is shown, lying under the water. Bonnard's continuing obsession with the canvas as a flat surface leads

him to distort perspective, tipping the bath up at such a steep angle that woman and water might even slide out. The artist hovers over her, half sinister and half protective.

As she grew old, Marthe became utterly preoccupied with hygiene. Bonnard may well have felt frustrated by her confinement to the bathroom, and in another 1925 painting he shows Marthe lodged in a bath as restricting as a sarcophagus. But he was devoted to her as well. They married that year, in a strange ceremony attended only by their concierge and her husband. From then on, Marthe and her naked abstractions furnished him with his most rewarding, inexhaustible subject.

The bathroom is transformed into a place of shimmering splendour, and the eternally lissom Marthe, often wearing high-heeled shoes, presides over this chamber like a goddess. But her sculptural presence is perpetually threatened by the sheer luminosity of her surroundings. Time and again, Marthe appears on the point of melting into the brilliantly hued patchwork built up by Bonnard's beguiling brushstrokes.

The work he produced during the 1930s distinguishes him, more than ever before, as a supreme modern colourist. There is something rapturous about these liquid visions of his ailing wife immersed in her temple of cleanliness.

Bonnard himself, according to his late self-portraits, was a gaunt and troubled figure with dark, seemingly sightless eyes. The most melancholy were executed after Marthe's death, an event that grimly fulfilled all his forebodings about the dissolution of her flesh. But one painting preoccupied him in his last years. Hanging in the final room here, it contains an uncannily lithe Marthe still floating in her bath.

Accompanied on the tiled floor by a sentinel-like dog, she appears suspended in a room even more incandescent than before. Bonnard knew, as he reworked the burnished mirage, that Marthe had failed to withstand the assault of time. But in this painting, more than any other, she achieves immortality through the redemptive power of art.

© Bonnard is at the Tate (0171-587 8200), sponsored by Ernst & Young, until May 17

AROUND THE GALLERIES

FOR Eugène Leroy every canvas represents a fight. It is a long drawn-out tussle with paint and palette, only resolved after several years of work. But the end results seem startlingly spontaneous. From the thick, chaotic surfaces of Leroy's canvases, from the wild streaks of colour and dense impasto swirls, shadowy faces and figures emerge before melting back as mysteriously as they have come.

These are the sensuous, lyrical paintings of a Frenchman who for 60 years has conducted a tempestuous love affair with paint. **Boukamel Contemporary Art, 9 Cork Street, London W1 (0171-734 0444), until March 21**

WITH Francis Bacon's portraits currently on show at the Hayward it makes a neatly timed sidestep to visit the retrospective exhibition of the work of Isobel Lambert — probably better known as Isobel Rawsthorne, Bacon's erstwhile friend and subject, who served also in her time as a model for artists such as Picasso, Derain, Giacometti and Epstein.

As a designer for the Royal Ballet, she was on hand to catch the dramatic leaps and twirls of Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev in bold, bright sketches. Though her costume designs are louche and luminous, she was clearly more interested in the dancers' bodies than in what they wore. In the end, however, Lambert's life is probably more interesting than her art. **October Gallery, 24 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1 (0171-242 7367), until Feb 21**

IF YOU are as obsessed with Marc Quinn's rotund body and its oozing fluids as he is, then this is the one show you should visit this week. It is the first comprehensive sculpture display of the man who found fame with *Self*, a cast of his head filled with his own blood and then frozen for posterity — and for Charles Saatchi, of course.

But this show is as much about time passing as it is about permanence. Heads of mirrored glass melt like mercury into wonderful slippery shapes. Latex body

moulds drip and dissolve. And the centrepiece, a beautiful cast of Quinn in ice, slowly evaporates in its sealed container, entering the atmosphere to be breathed in by its audience. **South London Gallery, 65 Peckham Road, London SE5 (0171-703 6120), until March 8**

IN 1935 Grace Pailthorpe, a surgeon with an artistic bent, met Reuben Mednikoff, a poetically inclined painter, and together they embarked on a project which was to be applauded by André Breton for the role it played in British Surrealism. Using art "as a shortcut to the unconscious", their somewhat over-ambitious aim was "the complete liberation of mankind".



Mednikoff's *Barn Dance* from 1935

This show is the logbook of a fantastical journey into the realms of the liberated imagination and automatic art. Octopus-armed menageries breed and merge, mutants boggle alarming eyes, still lives start into sudden animation, abstract shapes sprout teeth and horns. The influences of more famous Surrealists — principally Miró, Dalí — are clearly discernible, as well as the symbolism of Odion Redon.

But the odd, ungraspable intensity of this show is as exciting as its childish vigour. Pailthorpe and Mednikoff quarrelled with the other British Surrealists and in 1940 set sail for America and obscurity. This exhibition now brings an almost forgotten corner of British art back into focus.

Sluice Gates of the Mind, Leeds City Art Gallery, The Headrow, Leeds LS1 (0113-247 8248), until March 8

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PEPSI

CHANGING TIMES

MUSIC: Rodney Milnes on one Brussels directive that will pay dividends

Something rather extraordinary is happening in Baden-Baden on Saturday, the inaugural event in the brand new Festival Theatre built on to the old railway station. Not our own Royal Opera, nor the Kirov who follow later in the year, but a televised concert by successful young finalists after months of audition for European Union Opera. Today sees the final choices from 27 hopefuls, and on Saturday they go before the cameras. The real work starts in August.

EJO came into being on the coat-tails of the European Union Youth Orchestra, that 20-year-old success story masterminded by Joy and Lionel Bryer, and whose current music director is Bernard Haitink. The opera wing was decreed by Euro-initiative C1677462, and something called DG10 in Brussels provided initial funding. But Europhobes need not shudder: Brussels provides only 20 per cent of the first year's budget of £1.5 million. The rest is being raised privately, with significant help from the Internationale Jugendstiftung of Baden-Baden.

The organisation is run on a shoestring, with a permanent staff of just three in the EUYO offices in London. But the joint bosses, Brian Dickie and Felicity Jackson, are a formidable pair: he a former general director of Glyndebourne, Wedard and the Canadian Opera Company, she one of the most capable musical administrators in the business, responsible for countless

Curtain up on Euro-opera



Bullish: Felicity Jackson and Brian Dickie of the EJO

young artists' programmes on both sides of the Atlantic, member of the Met auditions panel.

No wonder the cream of young European singers have been flocking to take part in the August-to-October programme they have devised for EJO's first year: Eugene Onegin, conducted by Rozhdenskiy in the new Baden-Baden theatre; concerts of *Béatrice et Bénédict* conducted

by Yan-Pascal Tortelier in the old Baden theatre; and which Berlioz composed; plus masterclasses in song from Régine Crespin, Christa Ludwig and Elisabeth Söderström. And there are 25 technical traineeships for stage management, lighting, administration, etc.

Last year Dickie and Jackson spent six weeks trawling through 24 cities in the 15 countries of the Union, auditioning 350 young artists and whittling them down to 56. Sweden supplied the largest contingent of 27 competing for the principal roles this week. "Sitting in that hall in Stockholm and hearing one major talent after another, three, four, five in a row, was tremendously exciting," Dickie recalls. Italy was disappointing, but Jackson feels they failed to connect with the best the country had to offer. Both were impressed with the exciting voices coming out of Spain, and the UK patriots will be pleased to hear, came joint second in the number of finalists.

Sitting in on auditions in London, I was surprised that these were not just college youngsters but also artists with established careers, attracted by the opportunity to work with top people and the exposure to classy audiences, agents and management.

Young opera singers are being furnished with rich opportunities for development (coincidentally a similar venture, the Manchester-based European Opera Centre, starts on Saturday in the less glamorous setting of Buxton). But will there be anything for them to do in five years' time? Opera is in the doghouse here, with talk of decreased funding even on the Continent.

Dickie is bullish: "Are you trying to tell me that opera's not going to flourish in the next millennium? Of course it is! It's only a temporary situation." I hope he's right, and so do 56 young singers in Baden-Baden.

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SDAY FEBRUARY
people

How did Shelagh Stephenson go from unhappy actress to hit playwright? Daniel Rosenthal reports

On Saturday Shelagh Stephenson flies to Chicago to watch the American premiere of her first stage play, *An Experiment with an Air-pump*. Next week she returns to Manchester to attend the world premiere of her second. You could not script a more arresting contrast between that itinerary and the initial phases of Stephenson's theatre career: a "lost and miserable" years as an actress, during which her writing ambitions were buried beneath a wretched job and unrewarding parts with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

The play which America's celebrated Steppenwolf theatre company is producing in Chicago is *The Memory of Water*, in Stephenson's own words "a pretty black and, in an awful way, very funny work in which three English sisters gathered for the funeral of their mother are confronted by her ghost and some equally haunting home truths."

It was first seen at Hampstead Theatre in 1995, directed by Terry Johnson. On the basis of her first two radio dramas, Johnson had told Stephenson he would kill her if she did not write for the stage, and the threat paid off. The reviews were almost uniformly good, and nominations for playwright and new writer of the year followed.

Stephenson's only concern over the Chicago production is how it will sound. "They haven't relocated the action to an American town — the director said 'We wouldn't set a Sam Shepard play in Hull, so we're not moving yours' — so I'm worried the women may sound like Meryl Streep in *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, with that curious accent nobody's had here since about 1942."

With further productions already scheduled in Toronto, Munich, Tel Aviv and Buenos Aires, *The Memory of Water*, written after the death of her own mother, is developing into Stephenson's global calling card. "Ultimately, it's a play about mothers and daughters, and that gives it a universal appeal."

She thinks it "very unlikely" that the subject-matter of *An Experiment with an Air-pump*, which opens at the Royal Exchange on Tuesday with a tableau which recreates Joseph Wright's 1760s painting, *An Experiment On a Bird In The Air Pump*, the action switches back and forth between December 1799 and December 1999. In 1799 we are in the Newcastle home of Joseph Ferwick (played by David Horovitch), a physician, scientist and radical determined "to storm" into the next century, accompanied by his wife, Susannah (Dearbhla Molloy), their twin daughters and a hunchbacked Scots maid. For New Year's Eve, 1999, we are in the same house, and Horovitch and Molloy double as Tom, a redundant English lecturer, and his wife, Ellen, a high-



Shelagh Stephenson at rehearsals for *An Experiment with an Air-pump*, her second play, which opens in Manchester next week

Dreading the boards no longer

lying geneticist troubled by the morality of her experiments.

With its interlocking historical perspectives on class, medical ethics, women's rights and the use of language (Peter Mark Roget, "later of *Thesaurus fame*"), is one of Ferwick's house guests. *Experiment* is just as dark, but far more ambitious than *The Memory of Water*, or Stephenson's award-winning 1996 radio play *Five Kinds of Silence*, a disturbing tale of two daughters who murder their paranoiac, abusive father.

"After those two I wanted to write something bigger and less domestic," she says. "I think that women often get corralled into writing small plays which are just about people's relationships. I didn't want that to happen to me."

"At first I wanted to set this play at the turn and end of this century. But then I began to feel that the prevailing mood at the end of the 18th century was much closer to where we are now than the mood at the end of the 19th. In 1799, they were on the brink of the Industrial Revolution. They knew change was coming, but had no idea how vast it would be. It's the same for us: we have created all this phenomenal new science and technology, but we don't know how we're going to control it. A hundred years ago there was less to worry about. Everyone thought: 'Well, we've still got the Empire, so it'll be business as usual in the 20th.'"

Stephenson has known Molloy since 1982, when they were both in the cast of Solzhenitsyn's *The Love Girl*

and the *Innocent*, an RSC production that marked probably the lowest point of Stephenson's unhappy stage career.

She had grown up certain that she wanted to become a writer. "I loved theatre, but I didn't know you could be a woman playwright," she says. "Caryl Churchill was the only female dramatist around at that time and I hadn't even heard of her. So I ended up reading drama at Manchester and then, at 21, thought: 'Better be an actress.'"

Work with the RSC paid the bills but brought no satisfaction. Eventually she gave up stage acting altogether because she simply could not take it seriously. "To be a good actor you have to inhabit the part, but on stage I would have a terrible sense of standing

outside myself and asking 'Why am I wearing this dress? This is stupid.' It meant I hated my twenties, a lot of which were spent working as a waitress or sitting around waiting for my agent to ring."

She carried on looking for television work until 1987, when she "finally plucked up the courage" to dedicate herself to writing. Four months

after her last audition, she had an unsolicited radio play accepted by Radio 4, and "no longer felt lost."

"After that I was very poor for quite a while, but I so enjoyed being on my own with a word processor, or sitting in a library, researching, that it never crossed my mind to give up and get a 'proper' job. It's wonderful that I can now earn a good living as a writer."

The radical shift in fortune strikes her as a natural progression: "It doesn't feel like I'm having a second career in the theatre, it feels like I've just taken a long time to get going in life. Maybe I'm a late developer."

An Experiment with an Air-pump previews from tomorrow and opens on Tuesday at the Royal Exchange, Manchester (0161-833 0833)

Goodbye Verona

Romeo and Juliet
Greenwich

On my way to this theatre I realised I was wearing a black tie. My unconscious had known what I was about, for this production will be the last here before the London Arts Board closes the theatre down. Greenwich has been shown the future and it is dome-shaped and costs £700 million, equivalent to its theatre's annual funding (£210,000) for the next 3,500 years.

This closing production is colourful but undeniably a disappointment. The director is Rupert Goold, whose recent version of Graham Greene's *The End of the Affair* was generally liked, but many of his attempts to enliven this old tragedy end up making it seem even further away from modern experience than usual.

We are no longer required to accept that the love professed by Romeo and Juliet is eternal, or even likely to continue beyond next Friday. Escaping their ghastly environment can be presented as an equally powerful impulse. But the strength of love, rebellion or a combination of the two is not shown simply by setting the action in today's Verona, with its cropped T-shirts and heavy-duty trainers.

Even without the presence of a character taping Romeo's

conversation, the sheer rapidity of events looks ludicrous today: met on Monday, married on Tuesday, ended Wednesday, dead on Thursday. Only by treating the lines wholeheartedly as poetry, and more or less out of this world, are we able to give credence to any of it.

Matthew Wright's piazza set is picturesque and works well enough for the interiors. After Juliet's supposed death Goold bravely keeps her on stage throughout the lamentations, funeral rites, visits to the apothecary and so on: a feat of breath control for Kate Fleece-wood that pays off as a strong image, lying immobile on the circular bed above the pool. She also knows what feelings underpin her words, enabling the lines to ring true. Nicholas Irons looks properly callow as Romeo, but too much of the poetry escapes him. As for the brawling, adulterous *Old Capulet* with the Nurse's citizens of Verona, it was a relief when duels eliminated them.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Loud dreams

Zero
BAC, SW11

Franco Assembly is a theatre company for the twenties. Not the 1920s, but the anxious grown-up children of the 1970s. "Is it going to be cleaning toilets at Gate 13?" wonders the young blonde, trying to read her future in the faces of the audience. I stare blankly back. The thumping music that sounds like a synthesized windshield wiper has ceased to squeak. Four young clubbers are frozen in mid-gravitation while a fifth, Georgina, uses this gap to wrestle with her place in the Universe.

It's a moment as old as the hills, and it has been reappropriated by Franco Assembly to articulate the millennium fever of the chemical generation. On New Year's Eve the company take it in turns to unlock their thoughts. Cait talks of her child and the awfulness of her mother. The pixie-ish Korina worries about life, assurance, travellers, smokers, pseudophiles and science. Stevie fantasises about flashy images of himself. Georgina talks of stopping the clock.

The quality of the truth being sifted, however, is another matter. Most of the company's ramblings are spiced like bad vox pops around Andy Cleaton, Neil Thorne and Lee Simpson's throbbing techno soundtrack, which gives the company ample opportunity to show off Stephen Kirkham's wonderfully physical dance routines.

Franco's most notable innovation is a large plastic doll's house into which they squish like sardines and then emerge, amazingly, in school uniforms with bottle-thick glasses and blond wigs. It is a surreal piece of choreography at the MTV end of performance art. With more wit and invention they might even emulate the success of companies like Volcano TC. But in the meantime they are still scrambling for a punchline for Zero.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Jung love fails close analysis

Sabina
Bush, W11

We all know what tunnels symbolise in Freudian psychology and, since the Bush people lead us into their auditorium via a tunnel whose walls are covered with cheap, hand-cut, child and photographs of women in various stages of undress and bondage, it is a fair guess that, despite its dainty title, Snoo Wilson's latest play is not going to be about flower arrangement.

Nor is it. Like his recent *HRH*, which largely involved the lurid games the late Duke of Windsor allegedly played with the late Duchess, *Sabina* is about the power of sex. Specifically, it is about the power sex had over Freud's mephitic mind and failed finally to have over Jung's more supple and wide-ranging but less scientifically precise intellect. More specifically still, it is about a patient who became one of the many loves in the great Carl Gustav's life. This is an arresting subject, and there are times when Wilson duly arrests you. But there are others when he is the victim of one of his strengths, his imaginative restlessness. *HRH* was a near-naturalistic piece and none the worse for that. Aided by Andy Wilson's

complex character, if not a deeper thinker. His theory comes across as a mish-mash of superstition, occultism and woolly nostalgia for the pageant but as played in cool, impassive fashion by Paul McGann, he is an interesting mix of the fine and the petty.

Myself, I wish the two Wilsons had ditched both an irritating chorus-figure (Mark Long, looking like a vaguely transvestite Mercury) based on Jung's own spirit-guide, and the cartoonish scenes involving the sex-mad parents of his mistress, the title character. Instead, he could have looked closer at the evolution of his relationship with Sabina

(a passionate Susan Vidler), who begins as an hysterical, babbling inside a straitjacket, and ends up understandably irked by a lover who one moment treats her like a Wagnerian heroine and the next betrays her like a sneak thief. Large mind, small man: that seems to be Wilson's view of Jung, visionary and opportunist, spiritual adventurer and, maybe, anti-Semite.

But is this a just assessment or a superficial take? Despite its crazy inventiveness — or because of it — *Sabina* left me unsure.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Susan Vidler (Sabina) and Paul McGann (Jung)

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

ELLIOT DAVIS

Age: 25

Profession: Composer, songwriter and musical director, now turned producer.

Present occupation: His production of *Of Blessed Memory* by George Ratner opened at the King's Head in Islington this week, an intricate play about the dilemmas of religious and secular morality.

Other occupations? He has just signed a songwriting contract with Warner Chappell, who are also handling *Watermark*, a musical he wrote based on *La traviata* with lyrics by Stephen Clark who worked on *Martin Guerre*. He also directed *Lucky Stuff* at the Bridewell Theatre. And I've directed four short films including one about child abuse and its effect on adult life called *Dance To Your Daddy*.



Training: "I did all my grades at piano and then played in a jazz band at Mill Hill school in north London. I read politics, but I gave myself two years to make a name in the arts because I didn't want to be a lawyer."

First break? "I wrote to Lionel Bart when I was still at Warwick University after I saw a *South Bank Show* about him. He wrote back and we met and then I assisted him on some music. It didn't get me any jobs but it was a dream to work



BETTY JACKSON

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Nine special Sunday Times catwalk shows in association with Debenhams

To celebrate London Fashion Week, *The Sunday Times*, in association with Debenhams, is offering readers exclusive tickets to nine spectacular catwalk shows. You will see the best of this year's spring-summer collections by Britain's leading designers, plus an exclusive sneak preview of their autumn-winter fashions — six months before they reach the shops. Tickets are only £14, with a strictly limited number of front row seats available for £25.

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CHANGING TIMES

Court of Appeal

Law Report February 11 1998

Court of Appeal

Habitual residence qualification for benefit

Nessa v Chief Adjudication Officer

Before Lord Justice Morritt, Lord Justice Thorpe and Sir Christopher Staughton

[Judgment February 5] In order to qualify for income support, an applicant had to show that she was in the United Kingdom voluntarily and for settled purposes for an appreciable period of time before she could claim to be habitually resident.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved majority judgment (Lord Justice Thorpe dissenting) dismissing an appeal brought by Mrs Joybun Nessa against the decision of Mr J. Mesher, a social security commissioner, on June 6, 1996 reversing the decision of a social security appeal tribunal that the applicant was habitually resident as on the date of her arrival in the United Kingdom and was therefore entitled to income support.

Mr Richard Drabble, QC and Ms Natalie Leven for the applicant; Mr Nicholas Paines, QC, for the Chief Adjudication Officer.

SIR CHRISTOPHER STAUGHTON said that the applicant arrived on August 22, 1994. She was 55 and had lived all her life in Bangladesh. She had been left to himself, his Lordship would say that a person was not habitually resident on the day of arrival, even if residence was taken

reason that she had the right of abode when she arrived 19 years later. She was not her husband's only wife and nor were her three children the only ones fathered by him.

On September 6, 1994 she claimed income support. An adjudication officer decided that the claim failed on the ground that she was not habitually resident. A social security appeal tribunal reversed that decision but its decision was reversed by Mr Commissioner Mesher.

By virtue of paragraph 17 of Schedule 7 to the Income Support (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 1967) as introduced by regulation 4(1) of the Income-related Benefits Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No 3) Regulations (SI 1994 No 1807), the applicable amount of income support for a single claimant from abroad was nil. Thus the applicant was only entitled to income support if she was habitually resident.

The issue on the appeal was whether it was enough to show that a claimant was in the United Kingdom voluntarily and for settled purposes, or whether it also had to be proved that she had fulfilled those two conditions for an appreciable period of time. Left to himself, his Lordship would say that a person was not habitually resident on the day of arrival, even if residence was taken

up voluntarily and for settled purposes. "Habitually" in his Lordship's mind described residence which had already achieved a degree of continuity.

The same view was taken by Lord Brandon of Oakbrook in *In re J (a minor) [Abduction: Custody rights]* [1990] 2 AC 562, 578.

Mr Drabble argued that what Lord Brandon had said was both obiter and wrong. He relied on two other House of Lords' decisions where the words in question were "ordinarily residence" or "ordinarily resident": *Inland Revenue Commissioners v Lyaght* [1928] AC 234 and *R v Barrett Borough Council, Ex parte Shah* [1983] 2 AC 309, as well as various other cases mainly from the Family Division.

In his Lordship's judgment, however, it was appropriate to follow what was said by Lord Brandon in *In re J* for six reasons: 1 It accorded with the ordinary English meaning of the words in the regulation;

2 It had since been accepted by the Court of Appeal in *Re J (a Minor) (Child abduction)* [1992] 1 FLR 548; *Re M (Minors) (Residence order: Jurisdiction)* [1993] 1 FLR 498; and *M v M (Abduction: England and Scotland)* [1997] FLR 263; 3 It was cited by the House of Lords without disapproval in *In re S (a Minor) (Custody: Habitual*

residence) [1997] 3 WLR 990; 4 The draftsman should be taken to have in mind the established meaning of "habitually resident" at the time when those words were introduced by amendment in 1994; 5 If an appreciable period was required in family cases, there was, if anything, a stronger argument for that result in the regulation of income support, since there was evidently an intention to impose some restriction on the immediate reports of those who came from abroad and 6 Lord Brandon's observations, whether obiter or not, were a considered view and should only be departed from, if at all, by the House of Lords.

His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE THORPE, dissenting, said that residence had a prominent part in family law statutes. The density of the footnotes to sections 53 and 54 of *Rayden & Jackson on Divorce and Family Matters* (6th edition (1997)) illustrated that there had been innumerable decisions in which the statutory words had been considered in a variety of factual circumstances. Many of the cases cited were not family law cases since revenue statutes and welfare statutes had used the same expressions. The cases established that the words had the same meaning in

the different fields of law and there was no material distinction between ordinary and habitual residence.

The principal point was whether three sentences in Lord Brandon's speech in *In re J* were to be adopted or rejected. They were clearly obiter and so the question of whether an appreciable period was an essential ingredient of habitual residence was open for consideration on the appeal.

His Lordship was firmly of the view that it was not. There seemed little likelihood of the content of habitual residence being given different values in social security and family law.

For the family lawyer, the adjective "habitual" did not in the present context carry its literal sense so much as the sense of the quality of the connection of the individual to the relevant society for the purposes of the convention or legislation to be applied.

The adjective ensured that that connection was not transitory or temporary but enduring and the necessary durability could be judged prospectively by the court. His Lordship would allow the appeal.

Substantial damages for non-owner employer

Alfred McAlpine Construction Ltd v Panatton Ltd

Before Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Hodge and Lord Justice Mann

[Judgment February 5] Notwithstanding that it was not the owner of the land, the party which employed a contractor under a construction contract was entitled to recover substantial damages, that is, the appropriate measure of damages, for the contractor's failure to carry out the work in accordance with his obligations under the contract.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing the appeal of Panatton Ltd, the employer under a construction contract dated November 3, 1989, by which the contractors, Alfred McAlpine Construction Ltd, undertook to design and build an office building and multi-storey car park in Cambridge, against Judge Anthony Thornton, QC, who, sitting on Official Referees' business on April 15, 1996, had allowed the contractor's appeal from an interim award of an arbitrator, Mr John H. M. Sims, who held that the employer was not debarred from recovering substantial damages.

Mr David Friedman, QC, and Mr Jeremy Nicholson, for Panatton; Mr Rupert Jackson, QC and Mr Paul Sutherland for the contractors.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the contract price was in excess of £10 million. The building was completed but was alleged to be so defective that it might have to be demolished and rebuilt. It remained empty and unused.

The owners and developers of the site, an associated company of Panatton, did not enter the construction contract themselves. The contractual arrangements had been made for the purpose of avoiding liability to VAT which was not imposed on contracts for new buildings until September 1, 1997. VAT being incurred on the present contract although entered into after the imposition of VAT.

Panatton commenced arbitration proceedings against the contractors for the alleged defective works. The contractors contended that Panatton was not entitled to recover other than nominal damages for the alleged

breaches because it was never the site owner. The general rule of English law was, essentially, that a plaintiff could not recover compensation for the consequences of breach of contract when the actual loss had been suffered in the circumstances not by him but by a third person who was not a party to the contract.

An exception to the rule established in *Dunlop v Lambert* [1899] 6 Cl & F 600, namely, that the consignee of goods could recover damages for loss of or damage to the goods in the course of their carriage even if the goods had become the property of a consignee before the loss or damage occurred, was held not to apply when the parties to the original contract, consignee and contractor, contemplated that a separate contract would come into existence between the carrier and consignee, regulating the liabilities between them: *The Albion* [1977] AC 774.

The *Dunlop v Lambert* exception was confined to building contracts, enabling the employer to recover substantial damages from the contractor, by the House of Lords in *St Martins Property Corporation Ltd v Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd*, the second case in *Lincoln Gardens Trust Ltd v Linasia Sludge Disposals Ltd* [1994] 1 AC 85, and by the Court of Appeal in *Darlington Borough Council v Wiltshire Northern Ltd* [1995] 1 WLR 68.

The court considered the reasons for the court's decision in those cases, and concluded from them that there was clear House of Lords authority that in at least two kinds of cases a contracting party could recover substantial damages for breach even though the essential loss which was the measure of damages had not been borne by him.

Dunlop v Lambert established that the right to recover substantial damages arose because the parties to the contract intended or contemplated that it should be replaced by another contract which was to be made after the imposition of VAT.

Although described as an exception to the general rule, equality it was simply equivalent to saying that the general rule could be modified by agreement, express or implied, between the parties concerned.

The court held, following consideration of the extensive citation of authority by counsel, that the rationale of *Dunlop v Lambert* and the *St Martins* case was contractual, and that the latter case was direct authority that such an approach should be adopted when the claim was for damages for defective work by the employer against the contractor under a building contract of the present kind.

That case showed that Panatton were not debarred from entitlement to recover substantial damages by the fact that they were not, as never had been the building owners.

The question remained whether the contractual rights given to the building owners against the contractor direct precluded the *Dunlop v Lambert* approach, as they did in *The Albion* in the present case.

The contractors, on the same day as the building contract with Panatton, entered into an agreement with the building owners the duty of care owed.

Having considered the terms of both contracts, the court found that, in respect of the building contract, both parties contemplated that accounts would be settled between them, and that an anomaly would arise if the employer could not recover damages for defective work and the parties' expectations would be defeated.

Equally clearly, the duty of care due, a separate contract from the building contract was intended to create a right of action in contract for the building owners against the contractor if the contractor was in breach of its terms. It was not intended to preclude the employer's right to recover substantial damages for the contractors' breach.

Any risk of double recovery arose from the fact that there were two contracts rather than from the fact that the employer was entitled to recover substantial damages in the circumstances.

In the court's view, there would be no such risk if damages were recovered by the employer on behalf of the building owner, and such damages would have to be taken into account if the building owner made a separate claim.

Solicitors: Cameron McKenna, Masons, Manchester.

Capital gains liability after continuation of business

Barrett (Inspector of Taxes) v Powell

Before Mr Justice Lightman

[Judgment February 3]

Payment to a tenant farmer by his landlord on the surrender of an agricultural tenancy did not qualify for capital gains tax relief on retirement from a family business under section 69 of the Finance Act 1985. Because the tenant took advantage for two years of a temporary licence from the landlord to continue farming the land the surrender was not a "disposal of the whole or part of a business" for the purposes of section 69(2)(a). Mr Justice Lightman so held in a

reserved judgment in the Chancery Division allowing an appeal by the Crown from a determination by Blechley general commissioners that had reduced to nil an assessment to capital gains tax on Robert James Powell for 1989-90.

Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown; Mr Powell in person.

At the time Mr Powell was granted a temporary licence without any security rights to use the land until it was required by the landlord.

Accordingly, Mr Powell had continued to farm it for a further two seasons after the surrender. The level of his farming operations remained unchanged, until he was required to deliver up possession in September 1991.

Mr Powell satisfied the age condition in section 69 of the 1985 Act. He was entitled to the relief if the disposal of the tenancy was the disposal of "the whole or part of a business".

The construction of section 69(2)(a) was one of some difficulty. There was no statutory definition of "disposal". That gave rise to the problem of determining its meaning in the context of the section. An authoritative ruling by the Court of Appeal was much to be desired.

But guidance as to its meaning was provided in *McGregor v Adcock* [1977] 1 WLR 86, *Atkinson v Danvers* [1988] STC 758, *Pepper v Darfirm* [1993] STC 466 and *Jarvin v Rawlings* [1994] STC 109.

The issue was whether there was a disposal, not merely of an asset used in Mr Powell's business, but of "a part of the business" and that involved the question whether the

surrender of the tenancy caused a cessation of the business carried on by Mr Powell.

That was an issue of fact for the commissioners. But in so deciding it they had to direct themselves correctly in law. The question the commissioners had asked themselves was whether the disposal by way of surrender led to a position in relation to Mr Powell's farming business which was wholly different from that which obtained before the surrender.

But the test they had applied was not that. The fact that the future of the business so far as it was carried on at the tenanted land became precarious because of the uncertainty of its future duration did not mean that Mr Powell ceased to carry on the same business activity afterwards as before or that he had made any disposal of any part of his business.

There was no change in the character of his business and no absorption of a separate part of his business. Compare *Jarvin v Rawlings*.

The subsequent cessation of Mr Powell's farming business could not be treated as part of the disposal effected by the surrender deed. Such cessation was the result of a decision made long afterwards.

Clearly the disposal was of ownership of an asset used in Mr Powell's business. However, by virtue of the new licence granted by the landlord, Mr Powell was enabled thereafter to carry on exactly the same business as before. The use of the land was now precarious, and he had so carried on his business profitably for two seasons.

The commissioners had misdirected themselves. Their decision could not stand. The only disposal which was open to them was to hold that Mr Powell was not entitled to the relief.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Automatic directions do not run

Figgett v Davies

Before Lord Justice Hobbhouse, Lord Justice Brooke and Sir John Vinelott

[Judgment January 30]

Where a defence to a county court case was struck out with an order that a fully pleaded defence be filed within two months but no other directions were given, the automatic directions in Order 17, rule 11 of the County Court Rules did not begin to run again when a new defence was served. The effect of such an order was to leave the action without directions.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal against the decision of Judge Davies in Kingston upon Hull County Court that the action of the plaintiff, Christine Figgett, for negligent dental treatment against the defendant, David Charles Edwin Davies, had been

automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11, in the County Court. Rules 7, 11, 12 and 13 of the County Court Rules for a district judge to create a situation where automatic directions which had once started to run should be automatically cancelled out by an order striking out a defence. The defendant served several months before.

Mr Martin Spencer for the plaintiff; Miss Sylvia O'Rourke for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE said that the appeal raised a novel point not decided in *Banister v SGB plc* [The Times May 2, 1997; [1977] 4 All ER 129] or *Greig Middleton and Co Ltd v Dendrowski* [The Times July 28, 1997; [1997] 4 All ER 18]. The question was whether, if in the county court a district judge struck out a defence in 10 form as inadequate, without giving manual directions, automatic directions started to run again.

There was no scope within the sections of Order 17, rule 11 of the County Court Rules for a district judge to create a situation where automatic directions which had once started to run should be automatically cancelled out by an order striking out a defence. The defendant served several months before.

In those circumstances there was no provision in the rules for automatic directions to reappear.

It followed that the effect of the judge's order striking out the defence was to leave the action directionless except for the two months ordered for service of a defence.

Lord Justice Hobbhouse and Sir John Vinelott agreed. Solicitors: Nigel Walsh & Co, Driffield; Hempsons, Manchester.

Defamation ruling Benefit excluded

Geenty v Channel Four Television and Another

While appeals under Order 82, rule 3A of the Rules of the Supreme Court were not to be encouraged, the Court of Appeal would be less than reluctant to interfere with a judge's decision to rule out one and for all a particular allegedly defamatory meaning than with a decision that words were capable of bearing the pleaded meaning.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Brooke) so held on January 13 allowing an appeal by Inspector Patrick Paul Geenty from a decision of Mr Justice May on January 11, 1996.

The judge had held that words complained of in his action for defamation against Channel Four Television and David Jessel were incapable of meaning that he had probably beaten Willie Wilshire in cells at Gloucester Police station.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said the court had sought in *Hinduja v Asian TV Ltd* [The Times December 12, 1997] to discourage appeals under Order 82, rule 3A, but there was a significant difference between that type of case, where the judge had held the words capable of bearing the disputed meaning, and the instant case where the judge had ruled out a disputed meaning once and for all.

Savage v Saxena

Housing benefit paid to an employee following dismissal should not be deducted by an industrial tribunal from a compensatory award for unfair dismissal.

Judge Hargrove, sitting in the Employment Appeal Tribunal with Miss D. Whittingham and Mr R. Sanderson, so stated on January 20 in a reserved majority decision.

Moreover, if the industrial tribunal lessened the award by the amount of the housing benefit but still made a compensatory award, the local authority which had made payment of housing benefit could, upon the basis of the compensation, hold that there had been a change of circumstances which entitled the authority to recover it.

There was no provision for the authority to take into account the manner in which the industrial tribunal had computed the loss.

The authority would have a right to recover any sum which had apparently been overpaid on the emergence of the new circumstance.

The commissioners had misdirected themselves. Their decision could not stand. The only disposal which was open to them was to hold that Mr Powell was not entitled to the relief.

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هكذا من الاجل

Scotland's leading lights offer package for peace

Scotland's ten leading football clubs yesterday issued a legally binding document to their counterparts from the lower divisions promising an expanded breakaway league of at least 12 clubs from season 2000-01.

The document was issued in advance of a meeting tomorrow of all the league clubs at Hampden Park, when the breakaway group is hopeful that its proposals for the new set-up will finally be voted through.

Chris Robinson, the chief executive of Heart of Midlothian and chairman of the Premier division group, emphasised that the legally binding nature of the "Letter of Undertaking" - prepared by the premier division clubs' corporate lawyers, Dundas Wilson - should ease any lingering concerns of the smaller clubs.

FOOTBALL: GOOD ENOUGH, OLD ENOUGH... HODDLE GIVES ENGLAND'S RISING STAR HIS CHANCE

Owen strikes out for place in history

Glenn Hoddle sat back in his chair at Bisham Abbey yesterday and said again that he would give Michael Owen his chance at Wembley tonight. Beside him, the forward who will become the youngest, most precociously self-possessed match-winner to play for England this century, said that he would take it.

As he draped a protective arm around the back of Owen's chair, the England coach pleaded with the media and the capacity crowd that will flock to see the Liverpool centre forward make history against Chile, when he makes his international debut at the age of 18 years and 59 days, not to expect too much from one who has still only played 33 games of club football.

But, in the next breath, Hoddle, who is used to being shown unquestioning deference from many members of a squad still in awe of his talents, was letting his praise for Owen run free. The sum total of his words was a eulogy that few have heard spring from his lips before.



Football Correspondent

Schools eight years ago, when England made their last appearance in the World Cup finals.

This time, though, Owen is making a strong case for inclusion in the final squad of 22 to go to France this summer. Hoddle is clearly a confirmed admirer. "He likes to attack players with his face up so that he is aware of what is going on around him," Hoddle said. "That is a dying art. There are not many players in this country who can run with the ball as quickly as he does. He has got control and pace and he can run off the ball to create space as well as run with the ball."

"He is pretty unique, really. He is a striker who attacks people with the ball. You normally find wingers like Ryan Giggs doing that. He has got the ability to go quickly at opponents right down the middle. Now we just have to find out whether he can make the jump to international level, whether he can get off the hook when he has got international defenders clinging to him. He has shown me no signs yet that he cannot handle it all."

Owen took it all in his stride. He has been fêted all his life. His mother has kept scrapbooks of his feats since those days with Deside Schools, when he broke the appearance record set by Gary Speed, now of Newcastle United. Her son went to the School of Excellence for young footballers at Lilleshall. Thereafter, he scored on his debut for England Under-15, Under-16, Under-18 and, late last year, the Under-21 side. No one is betting against him completing the sequence tonight.



Owen's record-breaking career is set to continue against Chile at Wembley tonight

ability to do well. I don't think age comes into it. The manager has said that if you are good enough, you are old enough, and hopefully I come into that category.

"I suppose there is a bit of pressure on me, but I haven't got anything to lose. Hopefully, I have got a chance of going to France. The priority is to do well for my club between now and the summer and get seen by any England scouts who are there."

"A lot of people are bringing my age into it, but for some reason I don't really see myself as a young player coming into the game." For some reason he does not play like one, either, but there was one last question: "Had he played at Wembley before?" "For the Under-15s against Brazil and Germany," he said. "Oh yes, and he scored in both of them, too."

ENGLAND'S YOUNGEST

Table listing England's youngest players with columns for age, name, and opponent.

Coppell suffers miserable evening

WHEN Crystal Palace earned their place in the FA Cup Premier's Shield last year, Steve Coppell said, somewhat tongue in cheek, that far from being delighted with the prospect of visiting Old Trafford, Anfield, Highbury and the rest, he was looking forward to ten months of misery. Then again, perhaps he was not joking after all.

Lynam wins fight for Match of the Day

DES LYNAM has succeeded in his campaign to persuade the BBC to screen Match of the Day earlier on a Saturday night. The presenter of the football highlights show had been unhappy with the 10.50pm starting time, which he said was "in the land of the nodding-off" and was adversely affecting ratings of the programme.

Power failure

Jonathan Power, of Canada, the world No 3, tore a ligament in his right ankle playing basketball with his father in Toronto and has withdrawn.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Waugh furious at crowd trouble

Waugh, the Australia captain, complained about the security arrangements at Basin Reserve after crowd trouble soured his side's 60-run victory over New Zealand in a one-day international in Wellington yesterday.

Baulch out

Baulch, the world indoor 400 metres silver medal-winner, will miss the European championships in Valencia this month after suffering a hamstring injury.

Rosset in gear

Ricardo Rosset, of Brazil, has been signed as the second driver for the Tyrrell grand prix team's final season. It was announced yesterday.

Lead Rhino

Leeds Rhinos, who start the 1998 season at home against Castleford Tigers in the Six Nations Challenge Cup fourth round on Saturday, have appointed Iestyn Harris, 21, the Wales and Great Britain stand-off half, as their new captain.

Bout delayed

Oscar De La Hoya, the World Boxing Council welterweight champion, has injured in his right wrist and postponed a mandatory defence against Patrick Chapuisier in Atlantic City at the end of the month. The fight is now expected to be held in March.

Minetti waltz

Minetti 22, from Fareham, Hampshire, beat her own British air rifle record by seven points at the Intershoot meeting at The Hague, the first international tournament of the season.

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سكنا من الاجل

Rugby union facing test of its resolve to police players in the professional era

Yates's penalty leaves image in the balance

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RUGBY union continues its walk through the minefield. Even before the advent of professionalism... Ben Snelton case... which took five years to resolve... emphasised the grave responsibilities implicit in the exercise of the sport...

and written evidence presented to it by the players involved in the match between Bath, Yates's club, and London Scottish whose flanker, Simon Fenn, suffered the injury.

There was no restraint upon the panel regarding the length of sentence, which is the same as that awarded against Neil Back, the Leicester and England flanker, for pushing the referee, Steve Lander, at the end of the 1996 Pilkington Cup final.

Which is the worse offence, the public might ask, and which hurt the sport's image more? Flogging over a match official or taking a bite out of a player's earlobe?

But the panel has also taken account of the fiscal punishment Yates - assuming he does not make a successful appeal - will suffer. He must pay £23,500 in costs, he could find his contract with Bath under review and he has missed the match fees attached to England selection during his suspension - senior and A matches during the Five Nations Championship and the summer tour to the southern hemisphere. There is also the stain on his character which will never be completely erased, however successful a comeback he may make.

That he could yet play for England again is implicit in remarks made by Clive Woodward, the England coach, yesterday though he might have been better advised to make them at a later date. At the moment the Yates case is part of the broader problem facing a sport in which physical violence is enshrined by law - the tackle, the collision at the scrum.

If rugby cannot be played with consent, by the performers and the arbitrators, then it cannot be played at all. The players' need for self-discipline has never mattered more, the application of the rules by the referees has never been scrutinised more closely, particularly in the wake of the Snelton verdict in which the match official was judged to have failed in his duty to the player who suffered a broken neck when a scrum collapsed in a colts match in Sutton Coldfield.

It is that verdict that leads referees and touch judges to be especially cautious in their judgments of what is foul play, often suffering derision from players of another era who remember when casual violence was almost taken for granted.

In this instance, the RFU can hardly be accused of dragging its heels - the delay in the judicial hearing was at the behest of Yates and his advisers, not through the union's procrastination. The RFU has sought a meeting since last October with the English Rugby Partnership (which organises the professional game for the leading clubs) to discuss disciplinary procedures and, in the absence of any such meeting, it will shortly propose its own changes.

It must surely consider the appointment of a match or fixing commissioner similar to the role that has existed in New Zealand for the past two years, or of an automatic disciplinary panel such as rugby league uses. The one thing this case has shown is the need for disciplinary inquiries to be removed from the clubs concerned. The game's profile is such that the traditional expectancy for clubs to impose their own discipline can no longer be endured; almost invariably an offence not spotted by match officials will be highlighted, either by word of mouth or by television.

The Yates case has also caused the RFU to consider the application of forensic techniques, including DNA tests, to ensure that the interests of justice can be served as completely as possible. Though the player himself will scarcely appreciate it, Yates may have helped the game to avoid some of the landmines which still lie ahead.

John Goodbody assesses the harsh realities facing rugby's governing bodies as they administer penalties

Rugby union has to be careful not to impose inappropriate penalties on professional players committing foul play, a leading expert on sport and the law said yesterday.

Edward Grayson, a lawyer and founder president of the British Association for Sport and Law, said that the formal change of the elite sport from amateur to professional status meant that governing bodies had to assess the effect of any disciplinary decision on a player's capacity to earn a living.

Grayson said: "A two-year ban might have been appropriate for an amateur biting the ear of an opposing player, but this might be overdone for a professional. He might claim that a two-year suspension was an unreasonable restraint of trade."

He pointed out that last year, Jason Fayers, an amateur player with Edinburgh Academicals, was banned for four years for breaking the jaw of Craig Halliday, of Kelso, with a punch. It is the longest sentence imposed by the Scottish Rugby Union, but it was probably justified by the governing body because of the gravity of the offence and the bad publicity and harm caused to the game, Grayson said.

However, he added that a professional player might have challenged a ban of this length in the courts. A precedent exists. In February 1997, Mrs Justice Ebsworth backed the High Court appeal of Mark Jones, the Wales international, against his suspension for

four matches after he had been sent off for fighting. She said that the Welsh Rugby Union's punishment was both of "unreasonable length" and that the player had been given no "real rights".

What rugby may experience in future is what has already happened in other sports. Several suspensions for drug abuse, such as the one imposed on Katrin Krabbe, the German sprinter, have been shortened after appeals under civil law.

However, courts sometimes impose harsher sentences on players than the governing body. Last year Simon Devereux, of Gloucester, was jailed for nine months for breaking



Yates is forced to brave the cameras yesterday after being found guilty of biting

Punishment must fit the crime

John Goodbody assesses the harsh realities facing rugby's governing bodies as they administer penalties

the law of Jamie Cowie, the Rosslyn Park captain. The most prominent case in recent years involving ear-biting was that in 1994 when Johan Le Roux, the South Africa prop, bit Sean Fitzpatrick, the New Zealand captain, in an international match. He was sent home from the tour and banned from playing for 19 months.

Le Roux gave warning to Yates yesterday that things will "never be quite the same again. The first year after you start playing is the worst. You want to go out there and prove a point to everyone but there is a need to control your aggression".

Le Roux, who is now a member of the Northern Bulls' Super 12 squad, said: "I suppose it is pretty unfair when you consider that I got 19 months while Kevin Yates receives just six. There needs to be a worldwide code of conduct on this."



Fenn, the London Scottish flanker, required 25 stitches to repair his damaged ear

Sinbin mooted to cool Five Nations passions

There is a growing belief among top-class referees that a sinbin should be introduced in the Five Nations Championship. The shenanigans between Paul Wallace and George Graham, the Irish and Scottish props, during the international in Dublin on Saturday illustrates their argument, according to Brian Campsall, one of England's senior officials.

Campsall, a touch judge at Lansdowne Road, and André Watson, the South African referee who warned both props, contemplated sending them off but held back. The sinbin would have been the perfect solution according to Campsall, who is not alone in thinking that a totting up procedure should also be adopted for yellow cards. "I found in league games that the threat of the bin is more than enough of a deterrent. As for yellow cards, at the moment they are meaningless. We should follow the football system where a yellow card is worth, for example, four points and after 12 points you are suspended for a match."

Campsall considers the whole system of white, yellow and red cards confusing. In New

Zealand, any offence that doesn't warrant a sending off incurs a yellow card and ten minutes in the sinbin. "It makes life a lot easier," he said. "It really should be introduced for next season."

Brains trust In the wake of England's defeat in Paris, Clive Woodward, the coach, summoned Lawrence Dallaglio, the captain, Paul Grayson and Kyran Bracken to Twickenham for an in-depth debrief yesterday.

Woodward wanted his "three key decision makers" to analyse what went wrong at Stade de France and what lessons could be learnt before the game against Wales.

Elusive bonus Derrick Lee, the London Scottish fullback, thought that he had earned a £10,000 bonus from his club after winning his first cap as a 79th-minute replacement for Rowen Shephard in Dublin. However, he had not checked the small print.

He had to play at least ten minutes of an international before he is entitled to his money. He hopes that he figures more prominently when the Scottish side to play France is announced today.

Loose talk The first player to be sent off in 127 years of Scottish international rugby was dismissed playing against Ireland at the weekend. No, there wasn't an altercation in the tunnel at Lansdowne Road. The culprit was Alison McGrawles, 26, who was shown the red card in the women's international at Old Belvedere, which Scotland won 15-0.

Irish trial? The inquest into Ireland's defeat rages on and debate again centres on the value of having so many players in England. There has been

no discernible improvement in the national team's fortunes since the boys went over the water. Brian Ashton, the coach, maintained that they are the best available. Not everyone agrees and Charlie Mulqueen of The Cork Examiner makes an interesting proposition - a trial match between Ireland-based players and the exiles.

Technicolour The impish Thomas Castaignède is threatening to dye his hair again. Having lost a bet to Didier Lacroix, his former Toulouse colleague, the fly half went peroxide blond for the England clash - with instant results. Now he thinks a blue rinse would be appropriate for the game against Scotland at Murrayfield on Saturday week. He's contemplating a green dye for the Ireland game and a reddish hue for Wales.

Overseas grip Antipodeans retain their grip on the leadership of Oxford and Cambridge universities. Australia provided both captains at

Twickenham last December and David Kelaher (St Joseph's College and St Cross), from Sydney, will lead the Dark Blues this year with Andy Roberts (Ampleforth and New College) as his secretary. Matt Faulds (Christ's College, Canterbury and Sidney Sussex) will captain the Light Blues from tight-head prop. He is Australian by birth but grew up in New Zealand. His deputy is another Australian prop, Richard Bailey.

Legal case Will a panel of professional match commissioners be next on rugby's agenda? As of last weekend, the IRFB insists that commissioners, who deal with citings and foul play, have a legal background to meet the new demands of professionalism. As a side issue it meant that two Welsh committee men had their trips cancelled. Howard Watkins was due in Paris and Geraint Edwards in Dublin. They had to be replaced by Sam Simon and Terry Vaux, respectively the presidents of Pontypridd and Pontypool, and both solicitors.

MARK SOUSTER

Table with 2 columns: Football fixtures and Rugby fixtures. Includes teams like Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester United, and various rugby clubs.

Bath searching for derby success

JEREMY GUSCOTT and Mark Regan, of Bath, will miss the visit of Gloucester to the Recreation Ground in the Allied Dunbar Premiership tonight. Guscott, the centre, is being rested after England's defeat by France in the Five Nations Championship last Saturday, while Regan, the hooker, suffered a bruised shoulder during that 24-17 loss.

Advertisement for 'GET THE FACTS and THE FIGURES The Times 1000 1998'. Includes details about the book, CD-ROM, and a special offer.

Vertical advertisement on the left side of the page, including 'SPORT IN BRIEF', 'Waugh furious at crowd trouble', 'Baulch out', 'Russet in gear', 'Power failure', 'Lead Rhino', 'Match delayed', and 'Match wait'.

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CRICKET: ENGLAND COACH SEEKS HELP AS TEST CULPRITS ARE TAKEN TO TASK

Angry Lloyd banks on Botham

ON THE morning after his greatest disappointment as the England cricket coach, David Lloyd took himself and his darkest thoughts off to the beach here in Trinidad. Today, armed with a book full of notes and a head full of frustration, he will force his players to review how they came to lose the second Test match. More than one pair of ears will be burning.

Lloyd will concentrate on the woeful performances of Dean Headley and Andy Caddick, the new-ball bowlers. Their inability to maintain a consistent length or line, the fundamental of every bowler from the village green upwards, defeated the field placings of Michael Atherton, insulted the valiant bowling of Angus Fraser and indisputably cost England the match.

One of the pair, probably Caddick, may make way for the Test debut of Ashley Cowan on Friday, but first they will be coached and counselled by Ian Botham at a net session tomorrow. "I'm letting Ian loose on them and he won't waste his words," Lloyd said.

Yesterday, the Trinidad newspapers were conferring saintliness on their favourite son. On front and back pages, Brian Lara was lauded as the inspirational leader who will make West Indies great again. In truth, however, a remarkable match was not so much won by Lara and his men as it

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN PORT OF SPAIN

was lost by England. "For the last day and a half we played horrendous cricket," Lloyd said.

The unpalatable prospect of returning to Queen's Park Oval, to the same dressing-room and an adjacent pitch, when the series resumes persuaded Lloyd to give his team two days off. This evening, however, they will gather for what he calls "a debriefing" and he will not spare any feelings.

It is the burden of every coach that he can only prepare his players, not perform for them, and as Lloyd sat story-faced through the disillusioning final hours of a game that England had controlled, his emotions were readily imagined. "In Test cricket, it's all about giving out pressure and soaking it up yourselves," he said. "It's how you handle it that counts and some of our lads didn't handle it at all well."

"I said nothing to them at the end of the game because there was nothing useful to say. For some while, there was absolute silence in the dressing-room. Then, gradually, those who are honest and open began to speak up and admit they had blown it."

Lloyd wisely stayed away from the media in the immediate aftermath, for it is at such sensitive times that his passion can be counter-productive. He

returned to the hotel, wrote up his diary and then went to the airport to meet his youngest son. "The airline had lost his baggage," he said. "It was the end of a perfect day."

"My diary records that all our bankers, all the players I felt we could depend upon, performed well. But two of our side, the two main bowlers, didn't perform at all. When the third seamer, the one who is supposedly only there for support, takes 11 wickets and you still lose, something is badly wrong."

"I logged every ball of the last innings and it doesn't make for good reading. We had seen Curry Ambrose run in and put the ball on the right spot for our batters to nick it. We knew what was required, but we couldn't produce it. As a coach, I was uneasy hearing my bowlers say they felt they only had to kiss the top of this pitch to get the right result. I wanted to hear that they would run in and give it everything."

"Headley was only in his fourth Test. He has that mix of exuberance and innocence, but it should hit him hard after this that maximum performance is the only acceptable thing in Test cricket. With Caddick, the exasperation is that he is either hot or cold and he wasn't hot here."

For Lloyd, the problem is how much tinkering is advisable within a team that so nearly won. Russell had an untidy match and Tufnell did not have the expected impact on the second innings, but Lloyd is inclined to excuse both. "I'm very happy with Russell and the conditions for keeping wicket were difficult. Tufnell did a good defensive job and bowled long spells when the truth is we should hardly have needed him."

Holloake's anonymous performance will also be discussed, and as he does not impress as a Test-match No 6 and his five overs here suggest he is not rated by Atherton as an authentic fourth seam bowler, his position must be in jeopardy. There is a faction of the management that supports the elevation of Mark Ramprakash, but as he has not yet played a match on the tour this is unlikely to happen before the next leg of the trip, in Guyana.

If this series is to be reclaimed, however, attitude will be equally as important as personnel. England have suffered a serious setback and they have to react with speed and spirit, for to stumble a second time would be to concede irretrievable ground.

The result here handed a powerful psychological advantage to West Indies. To win at the same venue so few days later is a daunting task for England, but one in which they cannot afford to fail.

Holloake adopts the work ethic

Simon Wilde finds an England prospect developing his talents

THERE is no doubt as to who is the main attraction on the England A tour of Sri Lanka. Ben Holloake, burdened with more expectations of national cricketing salvation than any 20-year-old could ever meet, may not be receiving the attention that he would be here now in the Caribbean, but he is the focal point of public and media interest here.

Gradually, by dint of his performances, he has come to warrant his status, and knowing his appetite for the big occasion, there was nothing random about the timing. In the first two A Tests, he scored 68, 103 and 45 and bowled searching spells in the most unassuming conditions. That run also began at the same time as the Test series in the West Indies and coincided with a media visit here, organised by Vodafone, sponsors of the England team. Vodafone sold the trip on the understanding that there would be access to Holloake and it was not short of takers. Holloake, quietly pleased at the attention but unbothered by it, promptly provided something to write about.



Holloake displays the exceptional timing that makes his batting so effective

ing defence with amuck and playing good percentage shots. Gooch is most excited about Holloake's bowling, which he believes could improve dramatically in the next year or two, given the tendency for the best fast bowlers to put on a yard of pace in their early twenties.

"He has got a lot of ability. It is not really conducive to fast bowling here, but you can see he has got pace and he should get quicker. He is making progress and this coming season at Surrey is going to be a big one. We'd like him to start turning in the performances," Holloake has taken the message to heart. He is looking

critically at his batting and, in particular, at his sensational one-day innings against Australia last year. "I had a fair bit of luck in that knock," he admitted. "There is a lot of improving to do. If my batting and bowling are going to develop, I'm going to have to get fitter. I know that after the last game [the second A international, in which Holloake played a large part in England's victory], especially when you are playing in countries like this."

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ECB accused over TV rights

ENGLISH cricket, engaged in a prolonged attempt to free Test match television rights from the controversial listing procedures, is having to counter untimely allegations of misconduct from the BBC over the handling of rights for the 1999 World Cup.

Jonathan Martin, the controller of television sport for the BBC, claimed at a meeting of the Conservative backbench media group that the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has broken the broadcasters' voluntary code in agreeing an £8 million deal with BSkyB, an associate company of News International, owners of The Times.

Yesterday, however, Terry Blake, the marketing director of the ECB, refuted the accusation and insisted that cricket is committed to balanced broadcasting access. "The BBC is wrong on this issue," Blake said. "The voluntary code is more than satisfied."

The code, signed by the administrators of most high-profile sports, pledges to include terrestrial television, on a minimum basis of extended highlights, in all deals involving significant events.

The BBC's case is that it has not yet acquired any rights to the World Cup because the ECB dealt directly with BSkyB. Blake, however, points out that the contract with Sky, which has not yet been signed, includes an obligation to subcontract terrestrial rights.

This guarantees live terrestrial coverage of 15 World Cup games, including the final and one of the semi-finals, in addition to highlights. The problem has arisen because the BBC is having to negotiate with BSkyB, rather than with the ECB, and after several months of talks, it has failed to agree a price for its slice of the package. As it is the only terrestrial bidder, however, such an agreement is sure to follow.

Last week, Blake and Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the chairman of the ECB, met the Special Advisory Group set up to rule on listed events. Cricket's case for the de-listing of home Test matches, allowing freedom of negotiation with satellite and terrestrial channels, had what Blake said was "a sympathetic hearing".

Beauty babes revisited

Under the Sun: Painted Babies BBC2, 9.00pm

If Jane Treacy's documentary about the American pageant circuit rings a bell this is because it was originally shown in the Under the Sun series three years ago. The justification for another airing is partly that the film deserves it but also that Treacy had added an update on what has happened to her young heroines since. When we first met them, Asia Mansur and Brooke Breedwell were five-year-olds competing for beauty titles at the Southern Charm Pageant in Atlanta. Transformed by make-up artists into little painted dolls and egged on by ambitious and obsessive parents, Asia and Brooke showed that they had what it took to get to the top. Three years on they are still on the circuit and still winning prizes, which can be anything from a car (not much use to a tot) to a cheque for \$25,000.



Brooke Breedwell wins again (BBC1, 9pm)

The Force BBC2, 9.50pm

The final report from Thames Valley Police concentrates on an idea close to the heart not only of the Chief Constable, Charles Pollard, but the Home Secretary, Jack Straw. It is called restorative justice and involves bringing offenders and their victims face to face to discuss the effect of the crime. Pollard believes that "juvenile and first-time offenders in particular can be dissuaded from embarking on a career in crime if they are confronted with the results of their behaviour at an early stage. One of the "restorative conferences" brings a shoplifter together with the store detective who arrested him. Another confronts a teenage graffiti vandal with the man who had to clean up. As with all initiatives, this one has its critics. They question whether it is effective and even whether the police should be involved.

ER Channel 4, 9.00pm

Although British viewers might like to see their own Alex Kingston getting more of the action, the Chicago hospital drama continues to keep its cast busy. In a dozen plots and subplots are buzzing around tonight, helped by the busiest character of all, the camera operator. The camera is hardly ever

still as it roams the hospital floor, following first one piece of action and then gliding off to find another. The show's reputation for humour is maintained as a performance artist is brought in with a bullet hole in his leg but ER is more about the medical than the patients. Tonight it is mainly about Andrew Edwards's Dr Greene, who is cracking up under a threatened law suit, and George Clooney's Dr Ross, for whom there is bad news from California. All is set for an unusual next episode in which the two men head West.

Prostitute BBC1, 10.45pm

Psychologists could have a field day with Jose, the last subject of Esther Rantzen's illuminating series. As a child she never knew her father and her mother regarded her as nothing but trouble and for a punishment would leave her in the pitch dark and gagged. Now Jose is in charge, a dominatrix in the language of the prostitute's trade. Jose's clients are men who want to be humiliated, usually dressed up as French maids or schoolgirls. Beating men and being paid for it is her revenge for what she went through in childhood. The other strand in the story is that having married and had children, Jose found she was attracted to other women. She has been with her lesbian partner for five years but says it makes no difference to her work. Nor, although she is 60, does she intend to retire. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Who Sings the Hero: Trapped Radio 4, 2.00pm

Football grounds have been the scene of awful public disasters in the late 20th century but in the late 19th such catastrophes were prone to happen in theatres. One of the worst fires in the history of theatre happened at the Theatre Royal in Exeter in September of 1887. More than 180 people died in the inferno, which reduced the theatre to ashes. But the fire was to theatre safety what Hillsborough became to football ground safety, a catalyst for the introduction of new safety measures, including the introduction of the fire curtain and emergency exits. This play, written by Martin Sorrell of Exeter University from contemporary newspaper accounts, tells the story of the fire and its aftermath.

Reading Aloud: Sailing to Italy Radio 4, 3.30pm

The research project for Andrew Motion's recently published biography of John Keats included a journey to Italy in the steps of Keats who travelled there in 1820 in the vain hope of recovering from consumption in a better climate. He had initially diagnosed the disease himself and was at first treated at his home in Hampstead. Keats was to die in Rome, in a house at the foot of the Spanish Steps, the following year. In this programme Motion presents a diary of his own journey through a work that is essentially a reflection on the nature of water, and what a vivid account it is. Motion uses poetic imagery in a most energetic and moving way to recount his own experience and that of Keats 175 years earlier. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

8.30am Kevin Greening and Zolt Ball 9.00 Shiro Mizuo 12.00 Jo Whitey. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Cive Warron. Includes 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Evening Session 8.30 Mike Lipson with Mark Radcliffe 8.40-9.00 Peel. Includes a session by Calico 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbes 1.00am Charlie Jordan 4.00 Clive Molyneux

WORLD SERVICE

8.00am Newswatch 8.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf. Listening with Intent 7.30 Middle East Live 8.00 News 8.10 Focus 8.30-9.00 The World This Week 9.00-9.30 European News 9.30-10.00 World Service 10.00-10.30 News 10.30-11.00 Sports Roundup 11.00 Newsbeat 11.30 News 11.50pm World Service 12.00 News 12.15pm Sports Roundup 1.00 Newsbeat 2.00 News 2.15pm Outlook 2.30pm Megarix 3.00 News. News in German (9.45 only) 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Parliament 3.30 News 3.45 News 4.15 From the States 4.30 News 4.45 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15pm From Our Own Correspondent 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsbeat 1.30 Outlook 2.00 Newsbeat 2.30 Outlook 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15pm

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wales Up to Wogan 9.30 Alan Lester 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Rowe 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Nick Barnard 8.00 Rich McFall 8.00 Indie Newswatch 8.30 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15pm

RADIO 3

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nelly Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00pm Inevitable on Five 4.00 Midday with Juan Warlock 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Football Night: Live coverage from Wembley of the friendly between England and Italy 10.00 Donald Diamond 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up At Night 8.00 Morning Reports

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nelly Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00pm Inevitable on Five 4.00 Midday with Juan Warlock 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Football Night: Live coverage from Wembley of the friendly between England and Italy 10.00 Donald Diamond 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up At Night 8.00 Morning Reports

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Betty 8.00 Harry Kelly. Michael Barry covered separately. Five Records of the Week. List of Fave Hits and the Classic Mixtape 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourite pieces. 2.00pm Concerto. Britain (Double Concerto in A minor) 3.00 Jodie Clark. Includes: Schubert's Piano and Cello Concertos. 4.30 Newsnight with John Burt Foster and 5.00pm Evening Classics. 6.30 Newsnight with John Burt Foster and 5.00pm Evening Concerto. Ravel (Capricin and Chaconne Suite No 2). R. Strauss (An der Rheinbrücke and Ein Heldenleben). (The Planets) 11.00pm Concerto (1) 3.00 Mark Giffiths

TALK RADIO

6.00am Krisi Young with Bill Overton 9.00 Scott Chisholm 10.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinklage 7.00 Anna Rastburn 9.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins 2.00 The Easy Show

RADIO 6

6.00am On Air with Andrew McGregor, including Schumann (Piano Quintet in E flat); Bizet (Overture: Fables); Handel (Concerto Grosso in G); Chopin (Prelude in G major); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 1); Debussy (Clair de Lune); Ravel (Bolero); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 2); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 3); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 4); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 5); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 6); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 7); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 8); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 9); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 10); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 11); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 12); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 13); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 14); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 15); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 16); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 17); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 18); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 19); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 20); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 21); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 22); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 23); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 24); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 25); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 26); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 27); 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Portrait of the artist haunted by memory

I settled down for last night's Omnibus (BBC1) confident in my view that if Pierre Bonnard had spent his life painting Marthe with her clothes on the queues at the Tate Gallery would be nothing like as long as they are going to be. That's what comes of reading too many Sunday supplements. I suppose, which have been full of Bonnard's own brand of slightly rude nudges for weeks now.

I finished Eleanor Yule's film, however, eager to join the queues myself, which must be a sign of a job well done. Yet it had all started so unpromisingly. "My Dear Marthe..." began a heavily French accented voiceover, "I have some very sad news for you..." This sort of stuff always reminds me of those terrible films, where you tick off the historical characters as they introduce themselves to each other. "Byron, this is Shelley, Shelley, Mary, I think you know..."

Anyway, after the letter had served the dual purpose of telling us that Marthe was dead and that Bonnard was on second-name terms with Matisse, we moved on. To a... psychoanalyst. He stared intently at one of those alarming self-portraits that the supplements either leave out or just squeeze in after 27 pictures of Marthe sans kit. Eventually he pronounced, "It's only when she dies that he realises what an impoverished life he's been leading with her." And there was I thinking it was just a painting.

Whether he was right is, like most things in art, debatable, but it provided Yule with the basis for her film, which set out to show that beyond all that colour and light there was something darker. Bonnard, we were told, was an artist "haunted by memory" which would certainly explain why, when Marthe was approaching 70, he still painted her as having the body

of a 25-year-old. Dorian Gray, I felt, had the better deal.

And that's assuming it was Marthe's body he was thinking about at the time. It could have been Renée, the much younger woman whom he loved and proposed to and who shot herself when Bonnard, for reasons that were never fully explained, suddenly went back to Marthe. One person thought it was because he couldn't paint without her, another because he was concerned about her poor state of health, which coupled life-long asthma with mild paraplegia.

Yule's film covered an enjoyably wide body of Bonnard's work, but those nude studies were not forgotten. Christopher Hampton, writer, director and expert on anything involving France and sex, nailed over their sensual appeal. "It's the privacy that makes them erotic. Everything is somehow veiled..." in a



Matthew Bond

rather interesting way." Quite a lot, of course, is somehow unveiled, but I took the point.

With Picasso's damning criticism of Bonnard's style as "a potpourri of indecision" echoing down the years and others arguing about his ability to paint a moment, Yule's film both captured and contributed to the current excitement surrounding the artist. I, however, was distracted

by something his great-nephew mentioned: Bonnard apparently lived in a succession of modest houses, but always insisted on them having a balcony and french windows. A good rule for life.

Bonnard apart, last night's television was pretty much as normal stuff: more supermodels or more car crashes. What they unexpectedly had in common was truculent teenagers. Truculent teenager number one was Charlotte, one of the so-called stars of *Inside Story: Dazzled* (BBC1), a breathtakingly unambitious piece of reportage that really had no place in a series purporting to be inside anything. It had also been fairly seriously pre-empted by ITV's *Babewatch*.

But back to Charlotte, who slouched across the casting couches of New York Fashion Week in a manner familiar to anyone with experience of teenage. Or anyone who's watched Harry Enfield, come to that. Nah, she didn't

know what she'd do if she didn't make it as a model. She had mucked up her GCSEs and had never been much good at school. As she had just done 12 shows in seven days and shared her first catwalk with Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell, she could probably afford to slouch. "She's the 'girl', said the same helpful designer who'd earlier got me terribly confused as he explained the new look. "We're calling it 'the edge': that's a pretty way of saying ugly."

The girls were not depressing, but the programme's unimaginative approach was. Christopher Olgiati, the director, had negotiated access with just one agency, Storm, which allowed him to flick through their book from top (Kate Moss) to bottom (14-year-old Siân, a would-be wannabe) without surprising us once. Under-age models, thin models, fat models, unsuccessful models,

models on heroin... the end.

Truculent teenager number two was Julie, reluctant star of *Crash* (ITV), the third programme to bear that title in as many weeks. Julie had come close to being killed, when a car driven by her uninsured boyfriend crashed into trees. Problem? She still loved him. Her nearest and dearest did not.

Following the story and consequences of one particular crash was at least a novel idea, but the film was badly flawed — being tortuously slow at times and high-handed in its treatment of the boyfriend who hadn't co-operated with its making. He may have looked surly and had a hairstyle that bordered on the criminal, but that's no excuse for leading us to believe (for two thirds of the film) that he was a drunk-driver, when a blood sample (as was eventually admitted) showed an alcohol level well below the legal limit. That's the law. This was a lynch-mob.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (48456)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (56363)
 - 9.00 All Out the Shop (632627)
 - 9.25 Change That in Devices (8531362)
 - 9.50 Kiboy (1) (252169)
 - 10.30 Can't Cook, No Problem! (1) (2558633)
 - 10.55 The Really Useful Show (1) (8384275)
 - 11.35 What Would You Do? (1) (3143635)
 - 12.00 News (1) (6388965)
 - 12.05 pm Call My Bluff (1) (467324)
 - 12.35 Going for a Song (694904)
 - 1.00 News (1) and weather (63532)
 - 1.30 Regional News (1) (71940227)
 - 1.40 The Weather Show (37826427)
 - 1.45 Neighbours (1) (2186546)
 - 2.10 Petrol (1) (843411)
 - 2.55 Racing from Ascot Continued from BBC2. The 3.05 Coronet and Sony-Chase and 3.35 H&S James Capel.
 - 3.00 Regional News (1) (71940227)
 - 3.45 The Family News (5712817)
 - 3.50 ChuckleVision (4410458)
 - 4.10 Get Your Own Back (6013965)
 - 4.35 The Wild House (6906140)
 - 5.00 Newsround (1) (745324)
 - 5.15 Big Blue Peter (1) (4751685)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (437614)
 - 6.00 News (1) and weather (140)
 - 6.30 Regional News (1) (402)
 - 7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook Russell Grant and Mystic Mag challenge Richard Cawley and Patrick Atkin (4614)
 - 7.30 Tomorrow's World From the Tomorrow's World Live Event at Birmingham's NEC (1) (904)
 - 8.00 The Cruise: First Night Nerves Jane Tester reports on a trip to the cruise ship, while David and Mary Tester's sailing trip in Jamaica (1) (3382)
 - 8.30 Points of View with Barbara Windsor (1) (497352)
 - 8.45 The National Lottery Draw includes a report from the Millennium Dome (1) (48798)
 - 9.00 News (1) and weather (6659)
 - 9.30 Harry Enfield and Graham's Gentle Sketches (1) (1) (68898)
 - 9.59 National Lottery Update (686527)
 - 10.00 The X-Files: Zero Sum Skinner is forced to cover up the death of a woman attacked by a swarm of bees, and he himself framed for her murder (1) (44385)
 - 10.45 The Prostitute: Joie in the last of the series. Esther, Rantzen meets a 60-year-old lady of the night who looks back over her career (1) (697121)
 - 11.00 The State: Profile of Bryneman (697121)
 - 11.15 The Prostitute (1) (697121)
 - 11.45 The State: Profile of Bryneman (697121)
 - 12.15 News (1) (697121)
 - 11.55 Film '98 with Barry Norman: New releases reviewed including *In and Out* starring Kevin Kline, *Liar with Tim Roth*, *Chris Penn* and *Elan Bury*, and *Shogun* starring Ken Watanabe, *Paul O'Toole* and *Harvey Keitel* (1) (627382)
 - 11.45 Weather (282614)
 - 11.50 Olympic Grandstand Men's curling. Japan v Great Britain men's and women's ice hockey (4693411)
 - 3.00 BBC News 24

- BBC2**
- 6.10am What's All This Fuss About? (1) (837154)
 - 7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (1) and signing (8224492)
 - 7.15 Record Breakers Gold (1) (1) (19850)
 - 7.45 Olympic Grandstand Ski jumping, skiing, the luge, ice hockey, curling, freestyle skiing (199940)
 - 8.45 The Record (8879430)
 - 9.10 Short Circuit (2581481)
 - 9.30 Voces Espanolas (4495453)
 - 9.45 Words and Pictures (8448369)
 - 10.00 Teletalk (1) (93611)
 - 10.30 Numbertime (3076140)
 - 10.45 Cats' Eyes (3071695)
 - 11.00 Around Scotland (5310382)
 - 11.20 The Geography Programme (1) (623418)
 - 11.40 Job Bank (8320308)
 - 11.50 Moving to South (225237)
 - 12.10 Open Science in Action (1) (146414)
 - 12.30 Olympic Grandstand featuring freestyle skiing, 12.45 Women's Ice Hockey, America v Finland 1.30 Curling: Britain's women take on favourites Canada (2745388)
 - 2.10 Racing from Ascot: The 2.30 Shenley Express Handicap Hurdle. Continues on BBC1 (8461053)
 - 2.55 News (1) (8944508)
 - 3.00 Westminster (1) (629817)
 - 3.35 News (1) (1) regional news and weather (5768701)
 - 4.00 Football Focus (1) (6376550)
 - 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (575237)
 - 4.55 Esther: Getting Married (435940)
 - 5.30 Today's the Day (169)
 - 6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation Data goes up in smoke (1) (760411)
 - 6.45 A Little Later with Joole Holland (1) (50066)
 - 7.00 Olympic Grandstand Highlights from the fifth day including the K90 Individual ski jumping event, freestyle skiing and Britain v Canada in the curling competition (73527)
 - 8.30 The Travel Show Dubai and Seville (7351)
 - 9.00 Under the Stars Painted Stars on the five-year-old beauty queen, undergoing surgery, dance and deportment training. Last in series (1) (457237)
 - 9.50 The Force: Mr Pollard's Big Idea David Ross reports on a pioneering project from the Thames Valley Police. Last in series (614508)
 - 10.30 Newsnight (1) (657985)
 - 11.00 On Air (651074)
 - 11.45 The Midnight Hour (42783)
 - 12.30am Learning Zone: Our Invisible Sun (1) (13763)
 - 1.30am Newsnight's Revolution (1) (13763)
 - 2.30am The Physics of Ball Games (57744)
 - 2.00am Special Needs (30657)
 - 4.00 Under the Sun (25805)
 - 5.00 Business and Training (77522)
 - 5.30 20 Steps to Better Management (377828)
 - 5.45 Body Plans (328360)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am GMTV (573670)
 - 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (1) (8517782)
 - 9.55 Regional News (1) (8984633)
 - 10.00 The Time, The Place (85140)
 - 10.30 This Morning (1) (5812650)
 - 12.20pm Regional News (8372898)
 - 12.30 News (1) and weather (6970701)
 - 12.55 Shortland Street (6954982)
 - 1.25 Home and Away (1) (7095140)
 - 1.50 Crossroads (2164879)
 - 2.20 Chef School Teacher Emma shows the students how to make a cake (92711324)
 - 2.50 Venus: Married to a Miser (1) (622943)
 - 3.20 News (1) (561888)
 - 3.25 Regional News and weather (661769)
 - 3.30 Tots TV (1652382)
 - 3.40 The Blobs (579866)
 - 3.50 The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (4496674)
 - 4.15 Antinetics (1) (6004324)
 - 4.40 Whizzwig (1) (652188)
 - 5.10 WALES: Moneybags (1) (5323275)
 - 5.10 Yan Can Cook: Fast Food of Beijing (1) (5323275)
 - 5.40 News (1) and weather (310508)
 - 6.00 Home and Away (1) (720237)
 - 6.25 Regional News (345343)
 - 6.30 Regional News (1) (188)
 - 7.00 Emmerdale Tony Cairns's Activity Centre is launched (1) (9782)

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- 6.00am GMTV (573670)
 - 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (1) (8517782)
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- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (295642)
 - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5232275)
 - 6.25-7.00 Central News (941455)
 - 11.40 Midnight Caller (724492)
 - 12.40am Film: See No Evil, Hear No Evil (1988)
 - 4.00 Comedy starring Francis Price and Gene Wilder as handicapped news vendors on the run after being accused of murder. Directed by Arthur Hill (432623)
 - 3.05 Scotland's Larder (54321305)
 - 3.20 The Time, The Place (3753454)
 - 4.30 Cybernet (5225569)
 - 4.30 Central Jobfinder '98 (8333655)
 - 5.20 Asian Eye (1668522)

- CHANNEL 5**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (31169)
 - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (28343)
 - 9.00 Schools TV - Friend or Foe? (25665)
 - 9.30 Good Health (1) (619181)
 - 9.45 Book Box (1) (7946184)
 - 10.00 Stage Two Science (1) (4182237)
 - 10.15 Real-Tai-Tai (410518)
 - 10.30 The French Programme (1) (652266)
 - 10.50 First Look Listen (1) (827879)
 - 11.00 First Edition (1) (8218121)
 - 11.15 The Max (1) (6231072)
 - 11.30 Powerhouse Political magazine (1) (3576)
 - 12.00 Sesame Street (45459)
 - 12.30pm Light Lunch (7256)
 - 1.30 Left, Right and Centre 1958, b/w Ian Carmichael and Patricia Brellin in a romantic political comedy directed by Sidney Gilliat (5582625)
 - 3.10 The Sandcastle Oscar-winning animation (1940508)
 - 3.30 Collectors' Lot objects connected with Madagascar, a Barry Manilow fan and information about pascals (1) (692)
 - 4.00 Fitnes-No-One (1) (701)
 - 4.30 Countdown (1) (6607879)
 - 4.55 Rick Lake Divorces who want to remarry their former partners (1) (253568)
 - 5.30 Pet Rescue (1) (237)
 - 6.00 Party of Five Rates of passage comedy (1) (784549)
 - 6.50 Fresh Pop (482650)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (251633)
 - 7.55 Raw Talent Kimberley Oliver, who plays rugby for Chippingham under-13s (3/4) (1) (721546)
 - 8.00 Brookside Max is angry with Susannah for telling Julia about the baby. Ollie is concerned by Susannah's reunion with Marcus (1) (6072)
 - 8.30 TV Dinners Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall visits another two amateur cooks (6/14) (1) (2679)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videoweb decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture, 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
- 6.00am 5 News Early (7271459)
 - 7.30 Movie Cafe (1) (4922343)
 - 7.30 Hawakazoo (1) (7610363)
 - 7.35 Hawakazoo (1) (7610363)
 - 8.00 Hawakazoo (1) (7610363)
 - 8.30 WideWorld: The Japanese school system (1) (713053)
 - 9.00 Espresso (9049430)
 - 10.00 Flight to Freedom (1) (1) (2065506)
 - 10.30 Sunset Beach (1) (3477850)
 - 11.10 Lezza (295527)
 - 12.00 5 News (1) (7191508)
 - 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (7191508)
 - 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (4921614)
 - 1.30 The Great Garden Game (1) (1) (7191508)
 - 2.00 Beauty and the Beast (206237)
 - 3.00 100 Cent Gold (1) (139185)
 - 3.30 Battling for Baby (1991) with Suzanne Pleshette, Debbie Reynolds and Courteney Cox Family comedy about a nursery that becomes a battleground for two dating grandmothers. Directed by Art Woff (673485)
 - 5.30 Exclusive Sara Cox takes a look at stars who end up in prison (28430)
 - 6.00 100 Per Cent (4525343)
 - 6.30 Family Affairs Anne decides not to tell Chris about the baby (1) (451688)
 - 7.00 5 News (1) (1383968)
 - 7.30 Flight to Freedom: Which Come First Documentary looking at the different ways in which couples bring up their young (1) (4512879)
 - 8.00 The Pepsal Chart Show presented by Rhona Mitra and MTV videockey Eddy Temple-Morris (1) (392814)
 - 8.30 Food Fight Comedy food quiz hosted by Andy Parsons, with team captain Sara Cox and Henry Taylor joined by tonight's guests Nancy Lane and John Craven (1371121)
 - 9.00 The Heart of the Lie (1991) Controversial drama about the alleged murderess Laura "Bambi" Bernheim. With Lindsay Faye, John Garner and Tim Busfield. Directed by Noel Nosseck (1) (6356237)
 - 10.00 The Jack Docherty Show The guests include Richard Brinsley (4542695)
 - 11.25 80/50 Care with Julia Bradbury (1) (344342)
 - 11.55 Live and Dangerous Sports magazine with Todd MacInn introducing the best in American sports (4510125)
 - 5.30am 100 Per Cent (1) (5004367)

- SKY 1**
- 7.00am Starline (2052) 7.30 Bump in the Night (202469) 7.45 The Simpsons (20127) 8.15 Oprah (63666)
 - 8.30am The Simpsons (20127) 9.00 Days of Our Lives (5850) 10.00 Married with Children (6053) 10.30pm Star Trek: Voyager (1933) 11.00pm Star Trek: Voyager (1933) 11.30pm Star Trek: Voyager (1933) 12.00am Star Trek: Voyager (1933) 12.30am Star Trek: Voyager (1933)
- SKY MOVIES BOX**
- 7.00am Starline (2052) 7.30 Bump in the Night (202469) 7.45 The Simpsons (20127) 8.15 Oprah (63666)
- SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1**
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TENNIS 35

Rusedski aiming to turn on the power at Battersea

By MARK SOUSTER
KEVIN YATES is unlikely to decide whether to launch an appeal against his six-month ban for biting the ear of Simon Fenn, the London Scottish flanker, until next week at the earliest. The Bath and England prop must weigh up the potentially ruinous costs of an appeal against his stated desire to clear his name. His solicitor, Eddie Parladorio, said that Yates's intention, as stated immediately after he had been found guilty in the early hours of yesterday, was to appeal. After a day out of discussions with his advisers and lawyers, that was still the case. "His primary objective is to clear his name," Parladorio said. "He still maintains his innocence, but no one has a bottomless pit of money. The financial aspect is something we must discuss with Mr Yates, but that is secondary."

SPORT

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11 1998

CRICKET 38

Hollooake junior makes another case for senior service



Yates bides his time over appeal against verdict

Yates, who was found guilty on the balance of probability, has been ordered to pay London Scottish £20,000 towards their costs, and £3,500 to the Rugby Football Union (RFU). His own legal bill is expected to exceed £25,000. The ban includes the month he has already served and will run until July 11. If an appeal against his suspension fails, Yates will face further hefty costs as well as considerable loss of income from rugby. As part of the England squad, he could have expected realistically to earn a minimum of £15,000 to £20,000 from representing England over that period. Clive Woodward, the England coach, said that Yates's international career was not over. "We have got to go along with the RFU decision," he said. "Quite clearly he cannot be considered until next season unless his appeal is successful. However, I hope he returns fit, in form and available to resume what looked like being a promising career."

Johan le Roux, of South Africa, who was banned for 19 months for chewing the ear of Sean Fitzpatrick, the New Zealand captain, in 1994, said it would take time for Yates to shed the stigma of his disgrace. Le Roux said: "I have learnt to handle my situation, the public outcry, the suspension itself and the swipes people want to take at you, but it is not easy. Yates needs to understand all that because he now has a reputation, whether he likes it or not."

Fenn, who said that he was pleased with the outcome, has still to decide whether to seek damages through a civil action. Yates also faces the possibility of criminal proceedings being brought by a member of the public, which is due to be heard at Bath Magistrates' Court next month. Yates's legal team is still awaiting written confirmation of the three-man RFU disciplinary panel's findings before deciding on what grounds to base an appeal, which has to be lodged within 14 days. The panel, chaired by Michael Burton QC, had spent 25 hours in three separate sittings spread over seven days considering the evidence relating to the incident, which occurred in a Tetley's Bitter Cup tie between Bath and London Scottish on January 10. Yates remains suspended on full pay by Bath until the club holds its own inquiry, which it cannot do until it knows whether the player is going ahead with an appeal against the RFU ban. Yates could face further disciplinary measures for breach of contract, which could range from a fine to dismissal. The RFU suspension does not stop him training or coaching, but he is prevented from doing either by Bath until his future has been decided. Tom Shepherd, a director of Bath, said: "We have got to put our own house in order. The RFU panel knew when making its decision the effect it would have on a young man's career. He must do what he can to rebuild a slightly tarnished reputation." Shepherd suggested that Yates might become involved in coaching in the community until he can resume playing.

Roy Manock, the RFU's disciplinary officer, said that there had been no limit to the punishment Yates could have received. He could have been banned *sine die*. Answering criticism on the time that it took for the case to be heard, Manock said that the RFU had had its own hearing set for January 21. That had to be postponed after Yates successfully sought an injunction in the High Court for more time to prepare his defence.

Rugby union's minefield — 37
Assessing the punishment — 37



Yates found guilty

Full house expected to witness Liverpool teenager's England debut against Chile at Wembley

Owen ready to stake claim for World Cup

By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
LATE last year, Michael Owen sat in the corner of a pub close to the Liverpool training ground sipping a soft drink. He said his aim at the start of the season had been to play a dozen first-team games, but that things had gone so well he had increased the target to two dozen. Tonight, at Wembley, the goalposts that have become a symbol of his young life will be moved again. Owen has gone beyond merely establishing himself at Anfield. He has leapt ahead of Karlheinz Riedle and Robbie Fowler in the pecking order there. Tonight, as the focus of an expectant and curious nation, he will become the youngest player to appear in an England shirt this century. His quest to force himself into Glenn Hoddle's 22-man squad for the World Cup finals in France this summer will have begun in earnest. And so, instead of the 15,000 supporters who dragged themselves to Wembley the last time the visitors tonight, Chile, were the opponents, a full house will be drawn like moths gathering around the flame of Owen's dazzling light.

Part of it, as Hoddle said, is the onset of "World Cup fever"; most of it is the desire to witness a piece of football history. The England coach, who announced yesterday that Tony Adams would be restored to the captaincy in place of Paul Ince, said he had reassured Owen that there would be no pressure on him, that he would not carry the can if England performed poorly, that neither supporters nor the massed ranks of the media, suddenly eager for every detail of Owen's adolescence, should expect too much of him. His pleas are likely to fall on deaf ears. "I am determined to take the pressure off him," Hoddle said. "He looks the part on and off the pitch at the moment and he is a credit to himself and his family, but he has got to have it in his mind that going to the World Cup would be a bonus for him. He has got to treat it like that."

Although only six games remain before the England coach has to decide on his final 22, he stressed yesterday that "there are more places up for grabs than people would imagine." Owen, obviously, is striving to grasp one of those spots and it is likely that Hoddle will introduce him at half-time, or soon after, and give him a chance to play first with Teddy Sheringham and later with the returning Alan Shearer. Fitness permitting, Shearer, Sheringham, Paul Scholes and Ian Wright are all likely to make the World Cup squad, leaving Owen to battle for the final place with Andy Cole, Fowler, Les Ferdinand and Dion Dublin. As Hoddle tried in vain to divert attention away from the Liverpool prodigy, he said he had chosen Adams as his captain because he was satisfied that his recent seven-day sojourn at a health clinic in the south of France had rid him of the injury fatigue that had started to dog the autumn of his career and had cost him the captaincy for the decisive World Cup qualifier against Italy in October. Hoddle said that he could sympathise with the plight of Adams after fighting a prolonged battle of his own some years ago to overcome an Achilles tendon problem. He said that the Arsenal captain, one part of the "spine" of his side that also includes David Seaman, Paul Ince and Shearer, was now fit enough to concentrate on the performance rather than just having to focus on himself. "Mentally, Tony has come back 100 per cent from France," Hoddle said. "Physically, he has still got a little way to go, but there is a change in his mental approach to the game that I am pleased to see. His appetite for the game is there now, his desire is there. He is a natural-born captain."

Chile should not provide too stern a test, despite the presence of their highly-prized striker, Marcelo Salas, once a target for Manchester United but now bound for Lazio in Italy. Chosen because they play in a similar way to England's World Cup group rivals, Colombia, they only qualified for France on goal difference above Peru and are fresh from an unconvincing trip that saw them draw with New Zealand and edge to a 1-0 win over Australia. The test, in fact, will not be measured in victory or defeat, but in the way that the England hopefuls progress. Dublin may be given a chance in defence or in attack, Andy Hinchcliffe, a Hoddle favourite, should get another opportunity at left wing back, and Robert Lee could be offered the chance to make sure that he does not miss out on another squad, as he did for the 1996 European championship. All eyes, though, will be on Owen. "He has blossomed this season," Hoddle concluded. "There is no pressure on him to get to the World Cup, but he should be saying: 'I want that challenge, I feel I can cope with it and deal with it.' He loves the game. That will see him through."



Salas, centre, the Chile striker who was once courted by Manchester United, leads his team-mates in a sprint as they prepare for the match tonight

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

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No 1326

ACROSS
1 Speed, urgency (5)
4 Partner: use thrifly (7)
8 Spanish treasure ship (7)
9 Sydney beach (5)
10 Pier, dock (5)
11 Protection: seatechon (6)
13 A Gorgon: a jellyfish (6)
15 Las Vegas state (6)
18 Regular, even (6)
20 Avar, condition (5)
22 Tawny neding (5)
23 Chem. element variant (7)
24 To merit (7)
25 Card-game rule-book compiler (5)

DOWN
1 Athletics event: the naughty for it (4,4)
2 Acknowledged officer (7)
3 Fox (5)
4 Frank, trustworthy (6)
5 (Flood, tumult) go down (7)
6 Make void (5)
7 Irish assembly (4)
12 Unalid vision (5,3)
14 Disperse (7)
16 Comparison drawing similarity (7)
17 Journalist's name on column (2,4)
19 Stories: emergency jury (5)
20 A six: an animal (5)
21 Precious metal (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1325
ACROSS: 1 Cuckoo clock, 8 Breve, 9 Bilanz, 10 Lure, 11 Slovakia, 13 Renoir, 14 Zombie, 17 Barbecue, 19 Fiat, 22 Fragile, 23 Award, 24 Make-believe
DOWN: 1 Cabal, 2 Chevron, 3 Ozon, 4 Cobble, 5 Oblivion, 6 Kiosk, 7 Escape, 12 Slidekick, 13 Rebuff, 15 Brigade, 16 Superb, 18 Realism, 20 Fudge, 21 Pall

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TONIGHT'S TEAMS AT WEMBLEY

ENGLAND (probable 3-5-2): N Martin (Leeds United), G Neville (Manchester United), A Adams (Arsenal, captain), S Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur), R Lee (Newcastle United), P Scholes (Manchester United), A Wright (Sheffield Wednesday), E Shearer (Manchester United), A Cole (Manchester United).
CHILE (probable 3-5-2): N Tapia (Universidad Catolica), P Fuentes (Universidad Catolica), J Masera (Universidad Catolica), P Reyes (Colo Colo), F Rojas (Colo Colo), C Acosta (Universidad Catolica), J Sierra (Colo Colo), P Daldames (Universidad de Chile), M Salas (Lazio), J Carrero (Unatachod).

Acosta throws caution to the winds

Chile coach promises to rely on all-out attack in search of style to take on world's best

Nelson Acosta, the Chile coach, may consider England to be among the favourites for the World Cup this summer but he and his attack-minded side expect to offer a serious challenge at Wembley tonight. "I like the way England play but we intend to give them more than a good workout," Acosta said yesterday. "I have enormous respect for Glenn Hoddle and the way he has changed England's style. I would rank England among the favourites for the World Cup and this could be their year. They looked very good against Italy and this summer is their best chance for some time."

Chile have developed a reputation for all-out attack with Ivan Zamorano and Marcelo Salas forming a prolific pairing up front. In Marcelo Vega they have an experienced midfield playmaker. Acosta's favoured system of playing two attacking full backs could also create problems for England. Despite an impressive record in qual-

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